

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

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SEGA

SONIC

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE HEDGEHOG

Home
Part 2 of 4

TAKE A FLYER INTO THE FUTURE . . .
MOBIUS: 25 YEARS LATER!

SPAZ
PENDERS
2003
JENSEN AFTER
COCKRUM

ATOMIC WEAPONS.

ROBOTIC INVASION.

DOES THAT ROBOTNIK KNOW HOW TO KILL A HOMECOMING OR WHAT?

NOW, IT'S UP TO ME 'N TAILS TO RAIN ON HIS PARADE.

BIG TIME.

HARD TO BELIEVE WE MADE IT THIS FAR, WHEN ONLY A FEW MINUTES AGO...

...BACK AT CASTLE ACORN...

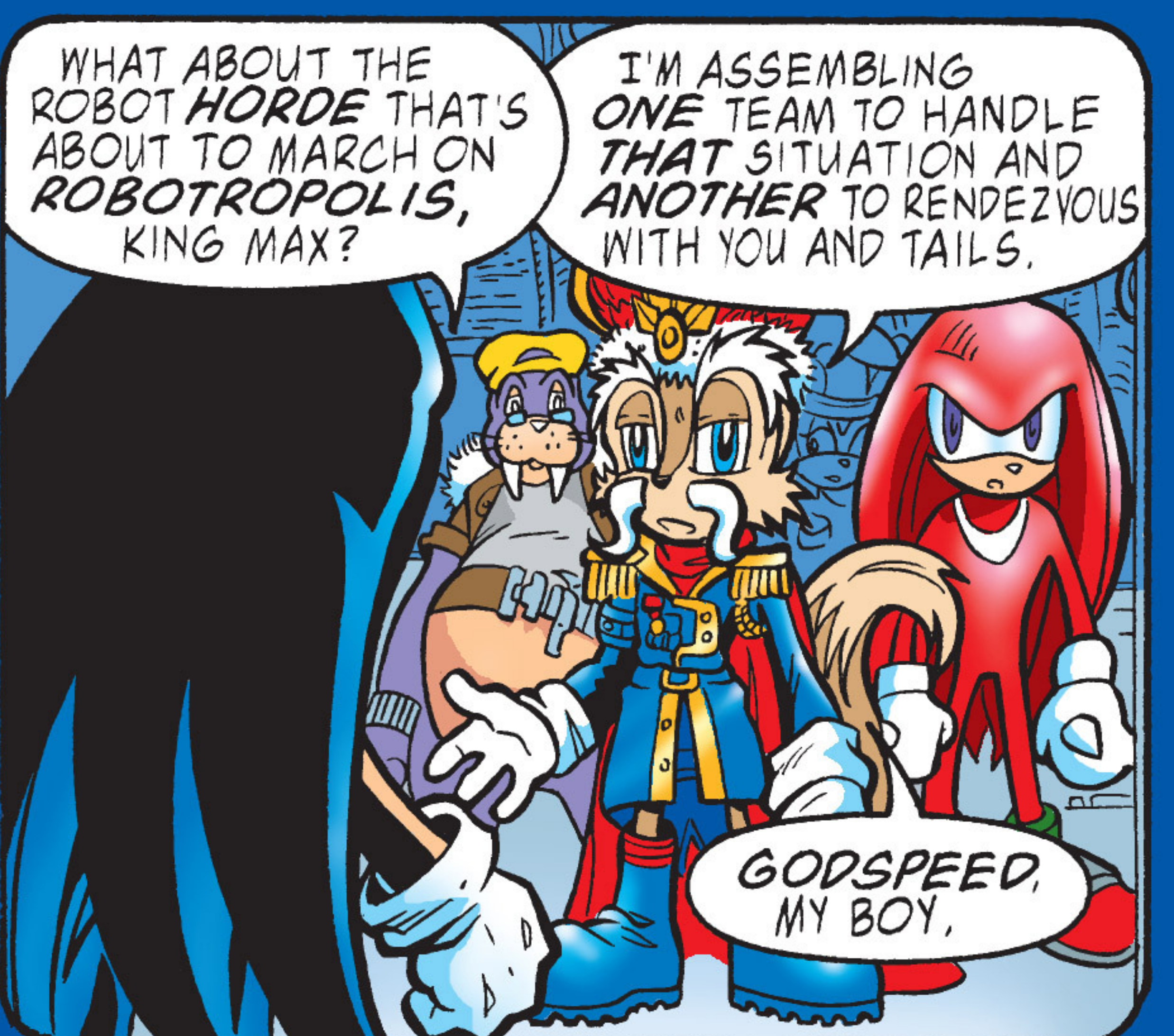
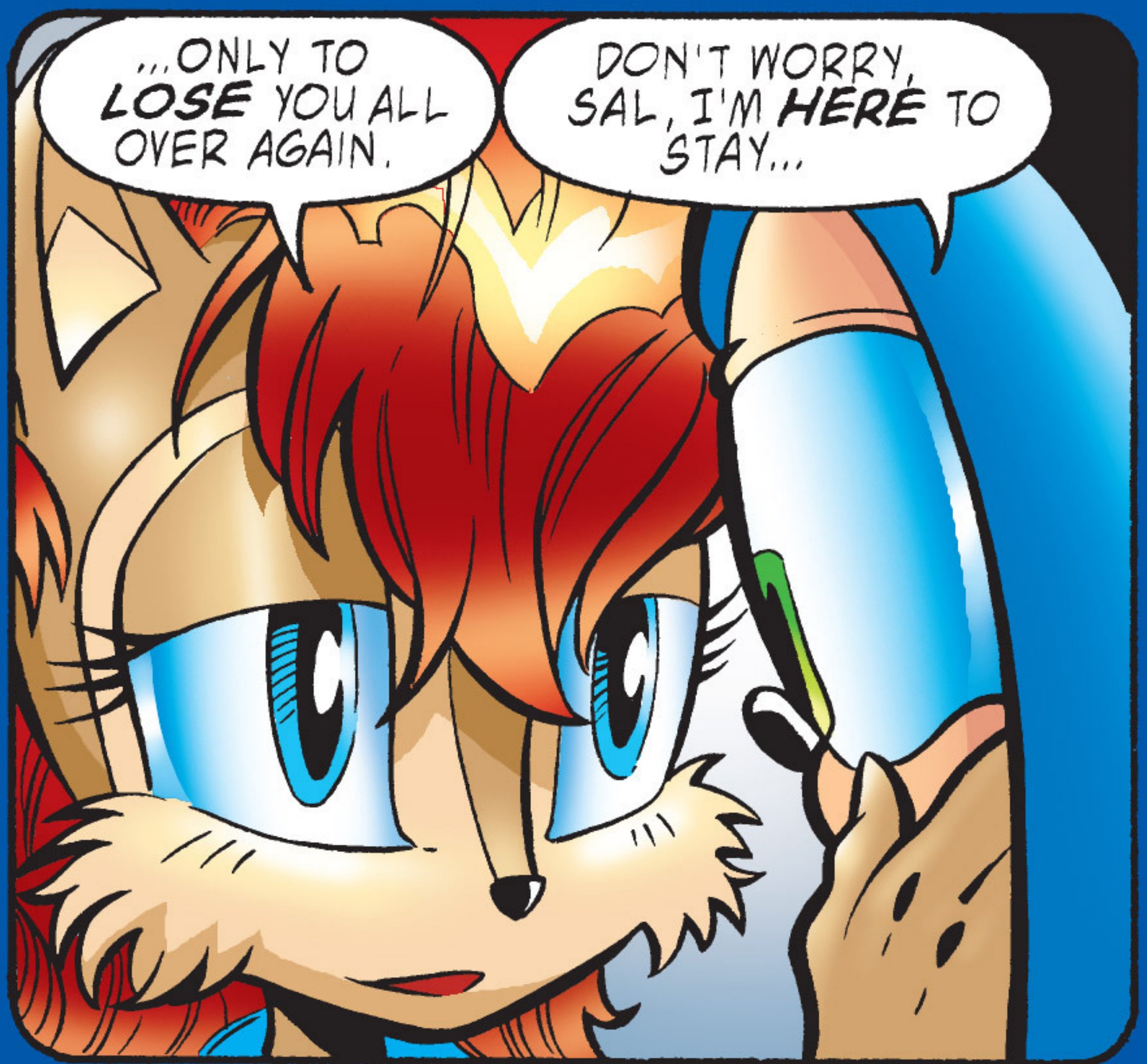
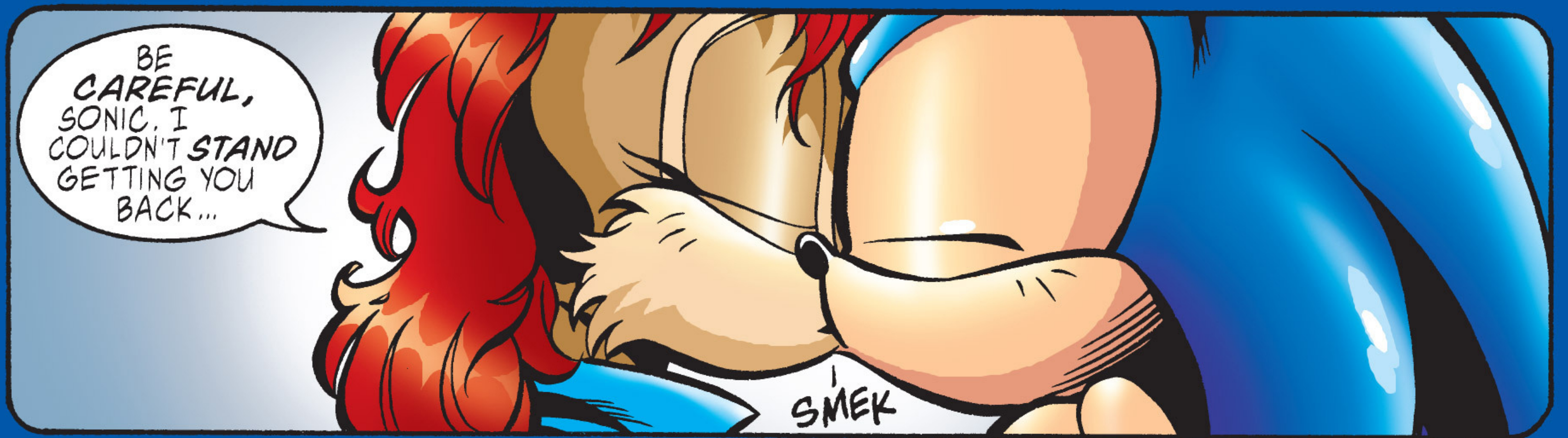
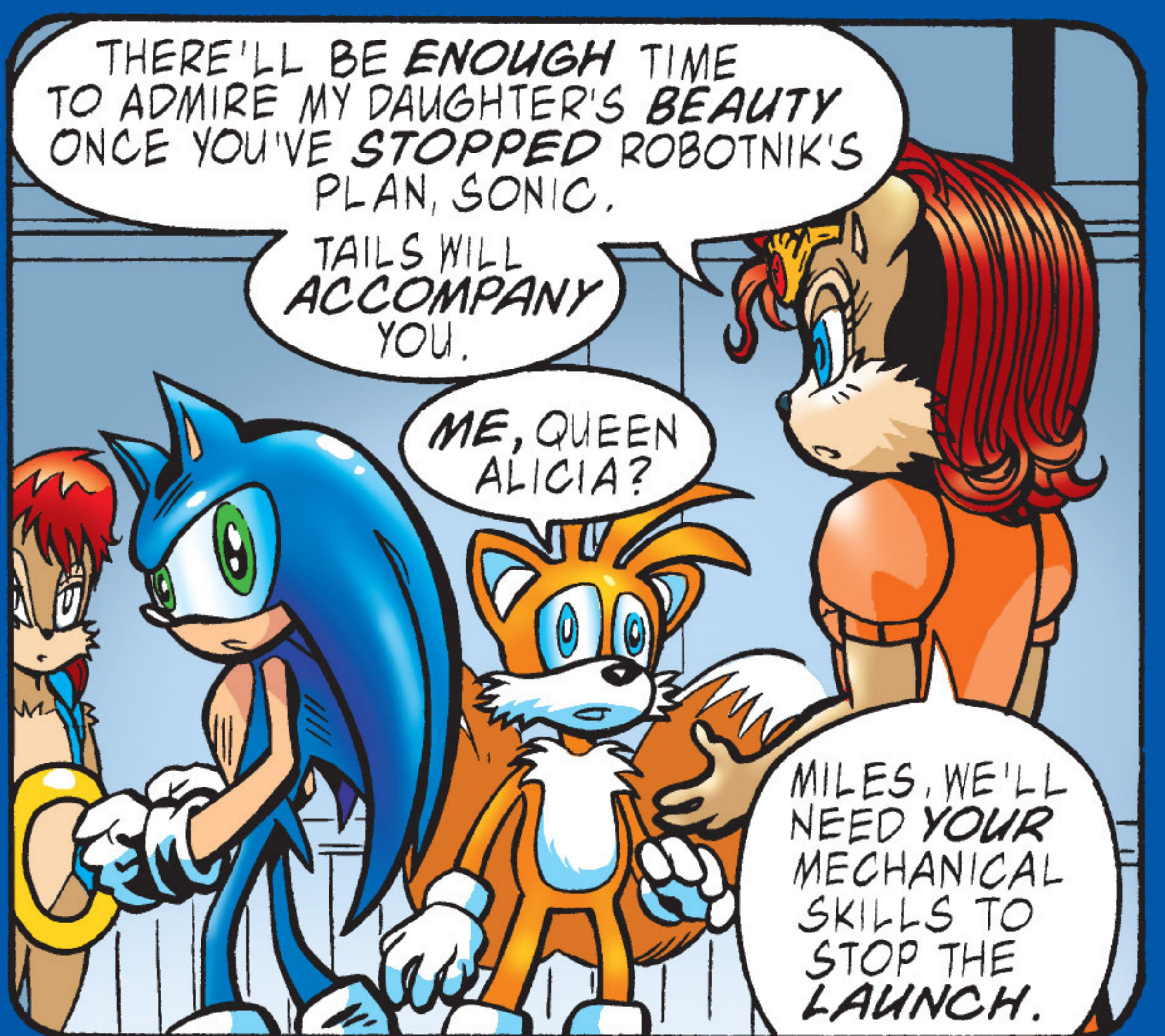
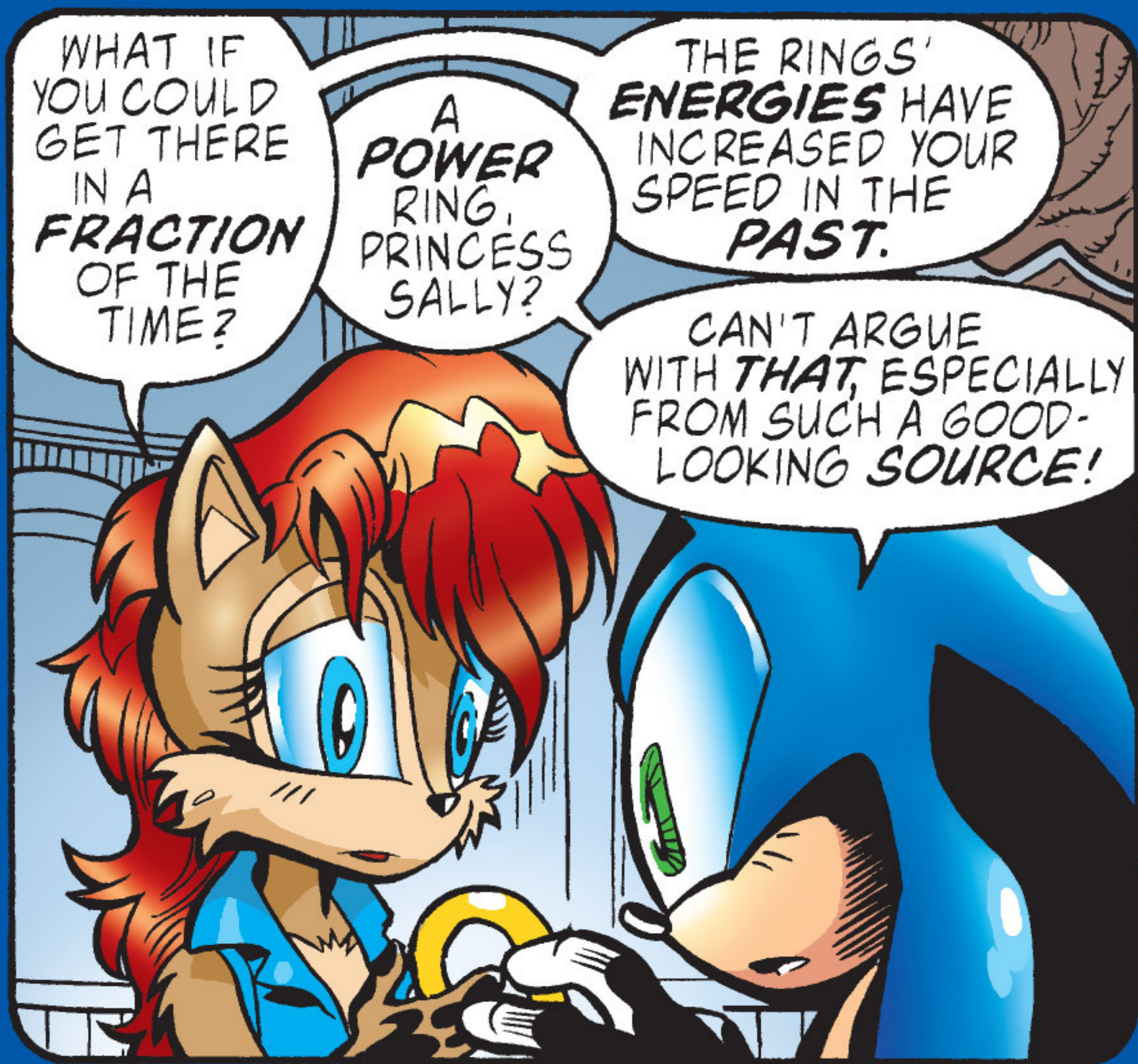
WE'RE MAJOR TOAST. EVEN AT TOP SPEED, IT'LL TAKE ME A COUPLE OF HOURS TO RUN NORTH TO OLD MEGAOPOLIS, AND BY THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE...

...EGGMAN WILL HAVE ALREADY LAUNCHED BOTH WARHEADS AT KNOTHOLE AND STATION SQUARE!

WAIT, SONIC...

Home Part 2 of 4 THE GATHERING

KARL BOLLERS - words RON LIM - pictures JIM AMASH - inks JASON JENSEN - colors JEFF POWELL - letters MIKE PELLERITO - assistant editor JUSTIN E. GABRIE - editor VICTOR GORELICK - managing editor RICHARD GOLDWATER - editor-in-chief J AXFR & M HIGGINS frontispiece

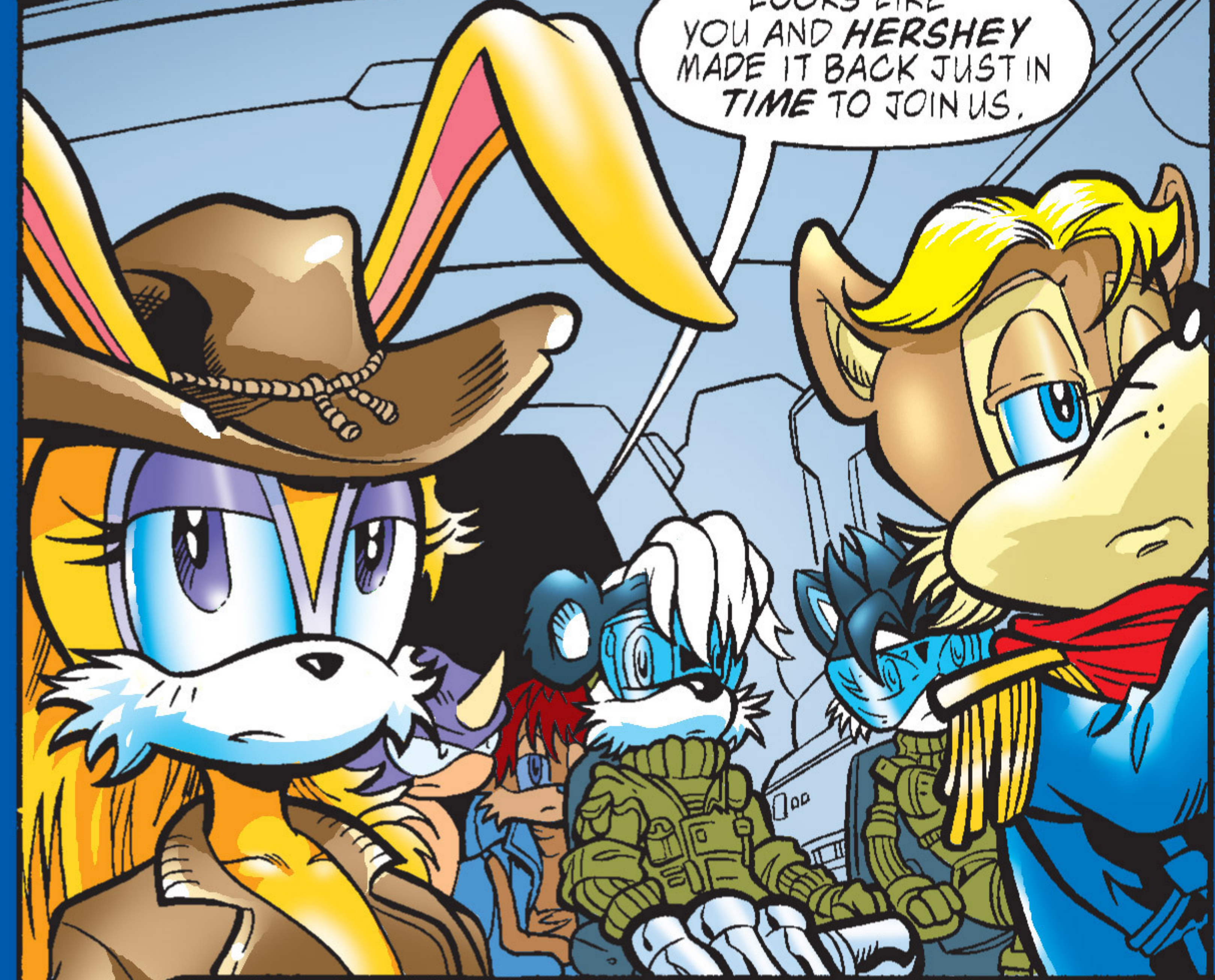


ABOVE KNOTHOLE



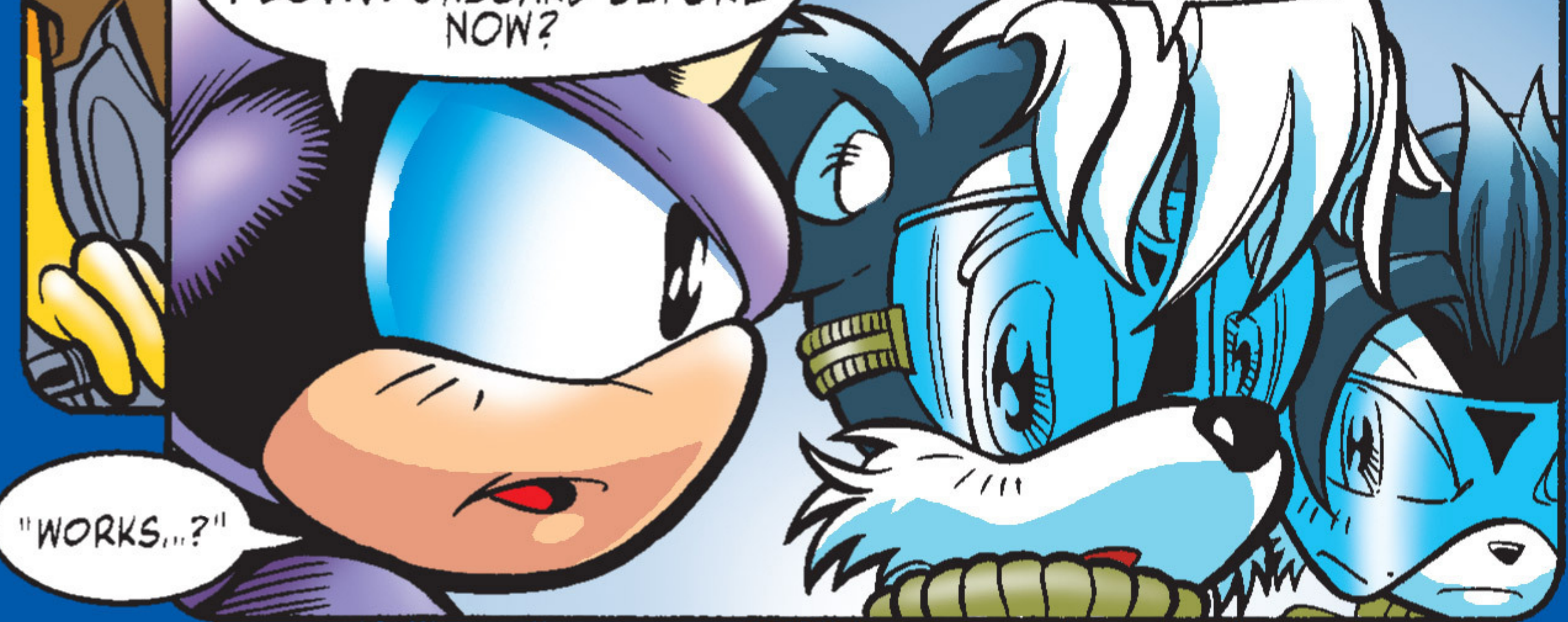
BUNNIE RABBOT.
ANTOINE D'COOLETTE.
FIONA FOX. ME. THIS IS
QUITE A TEAM KING MAX
GATHERED TO BACK UP
SONIC, EH, ST. JOHN?

LOOKS LIKE
YOU AND HERSHEY
MADE IT BACK JUST IN
TIME TO JOIN US.

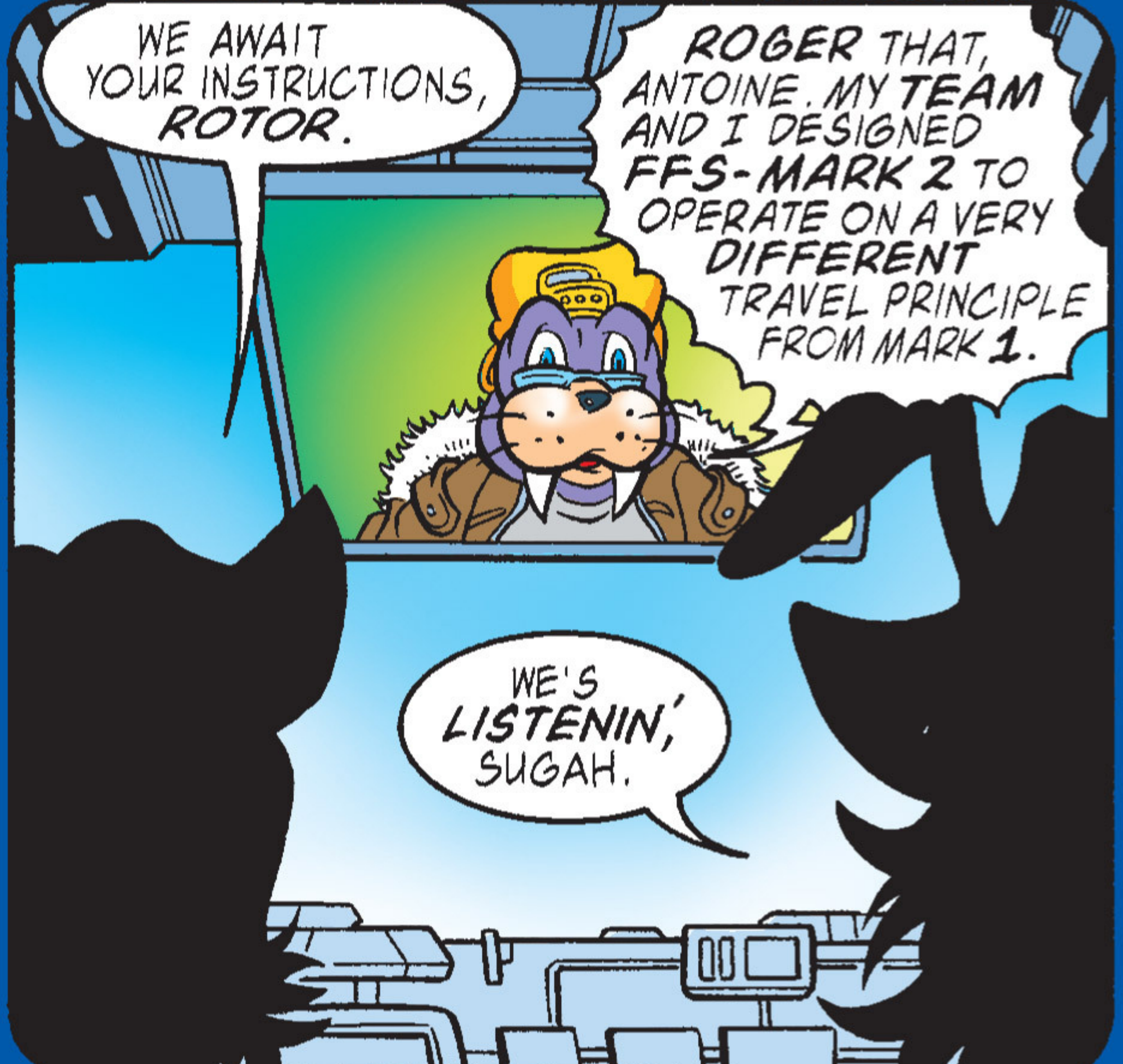


AND, ISN'T THIS A
NEW VERSION OF THE
FREEDOM FIGHTER
SPECIAL? YOU EVER
FLOWN ONBOARD BEFORE
NOW?

THIS IS HER MAIDEN
VOYAGE, ESPIO. WE'RE
NOT EVEN SURE IF SHE
WORKS, MATE.



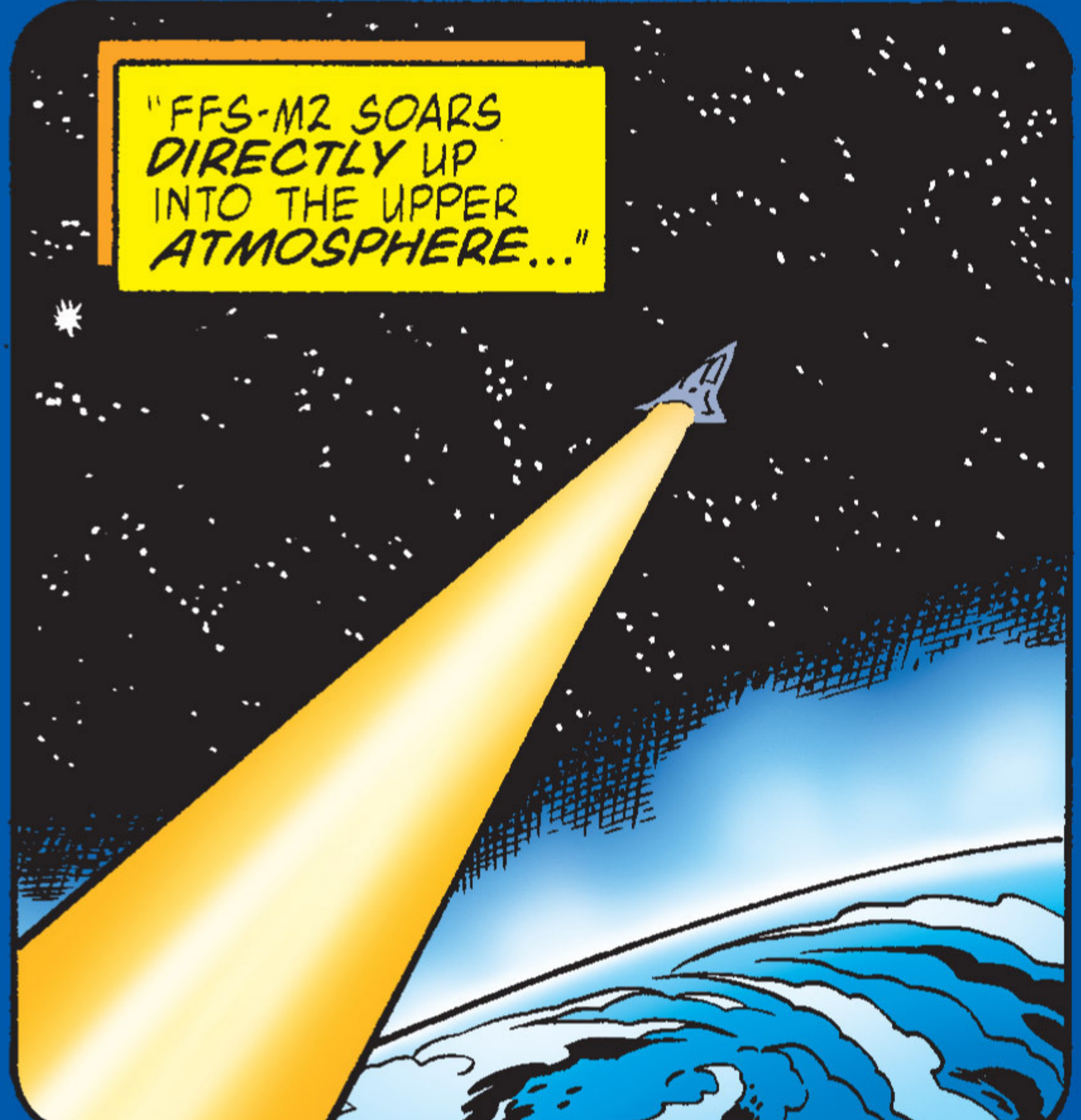
"WORKS...?"



WE AWAIT
YOUR INSTRUCTIONS,
ROTOR.

ROGER THAT,
ANTOINE. MY TEAM
AND I DESIGNED
FFS-MARK 2 TO
OPERATE ON A VERY
DIFFERENT
TRAVEL PRINCIPLE
FROM MARK 1.

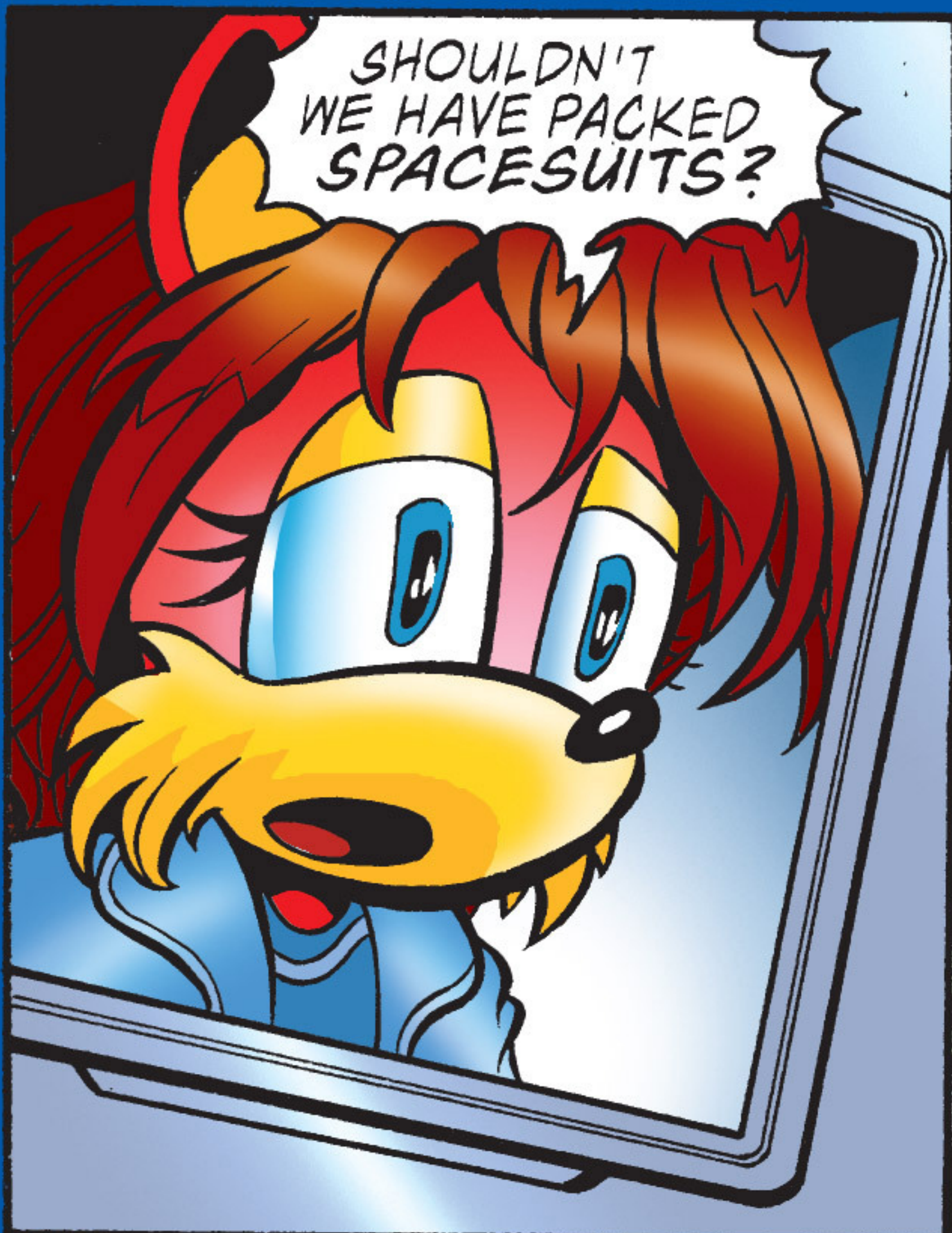
WE'S
LISTENIN',
SUGAH.



"FFS-M2 SOARS
DIRECTLY UP
INTO THE UPPER
ATMOSPHERE..."



"...WHERE IT MOVES INTO GEO-SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT AROUND MOBIUS."



SHOULDN'T WE HAVE PACKED SPACESUITS?



DON'T SWEAT IT, FIONA. WE INCLUDED AN ONBOARD LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM.

IS THIS THE PART WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY, "GEE WHILLIKERS...?"

NOT A **BAD** PLACE TO START, ALL IN ALL. IN **ANY** EVENT, MOVING IN AN ACCELERATED **HYPER-SPIN** AROUND THE PLANET...



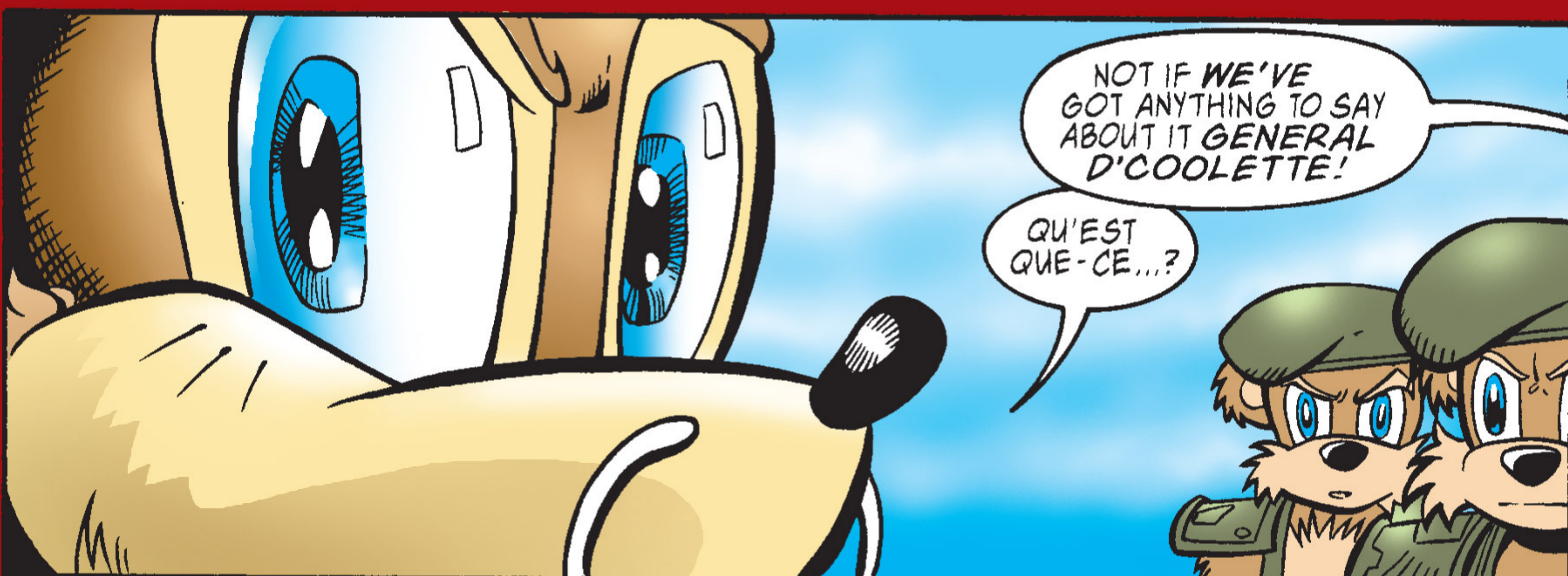
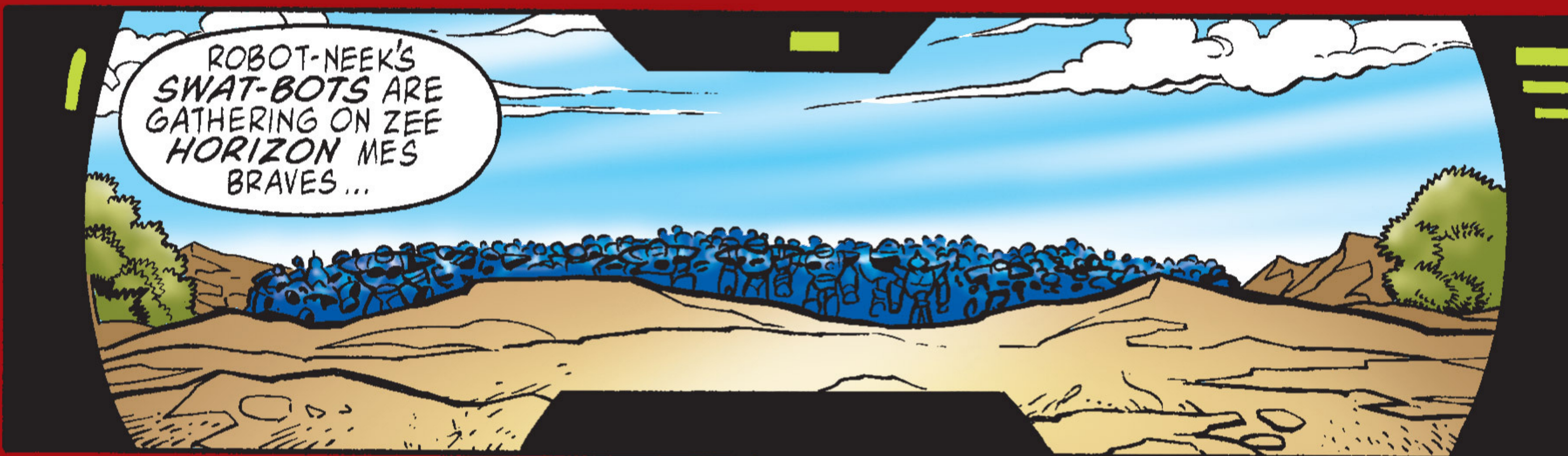
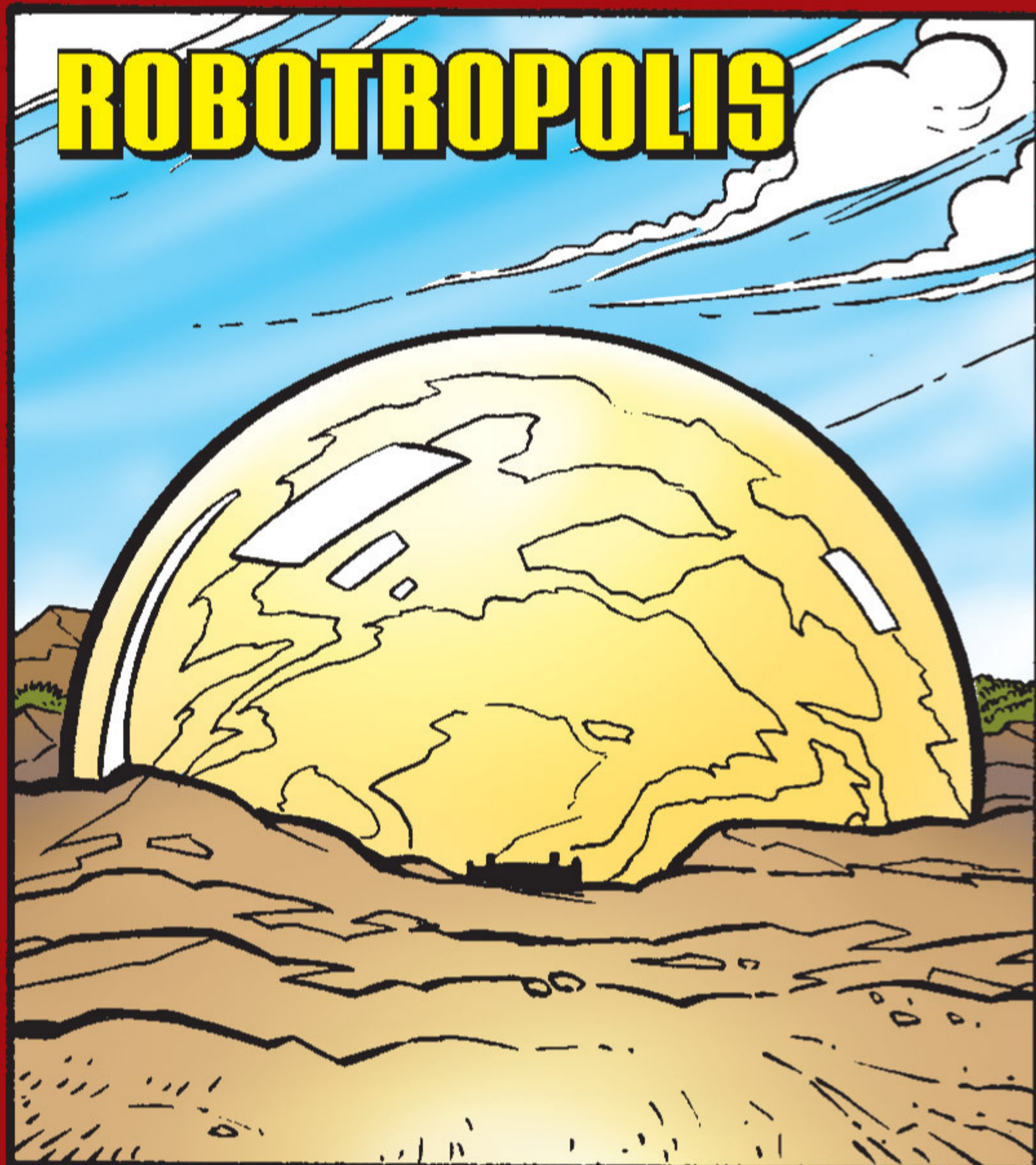
"...WILL CUT YOUR TRAVEL TIME LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

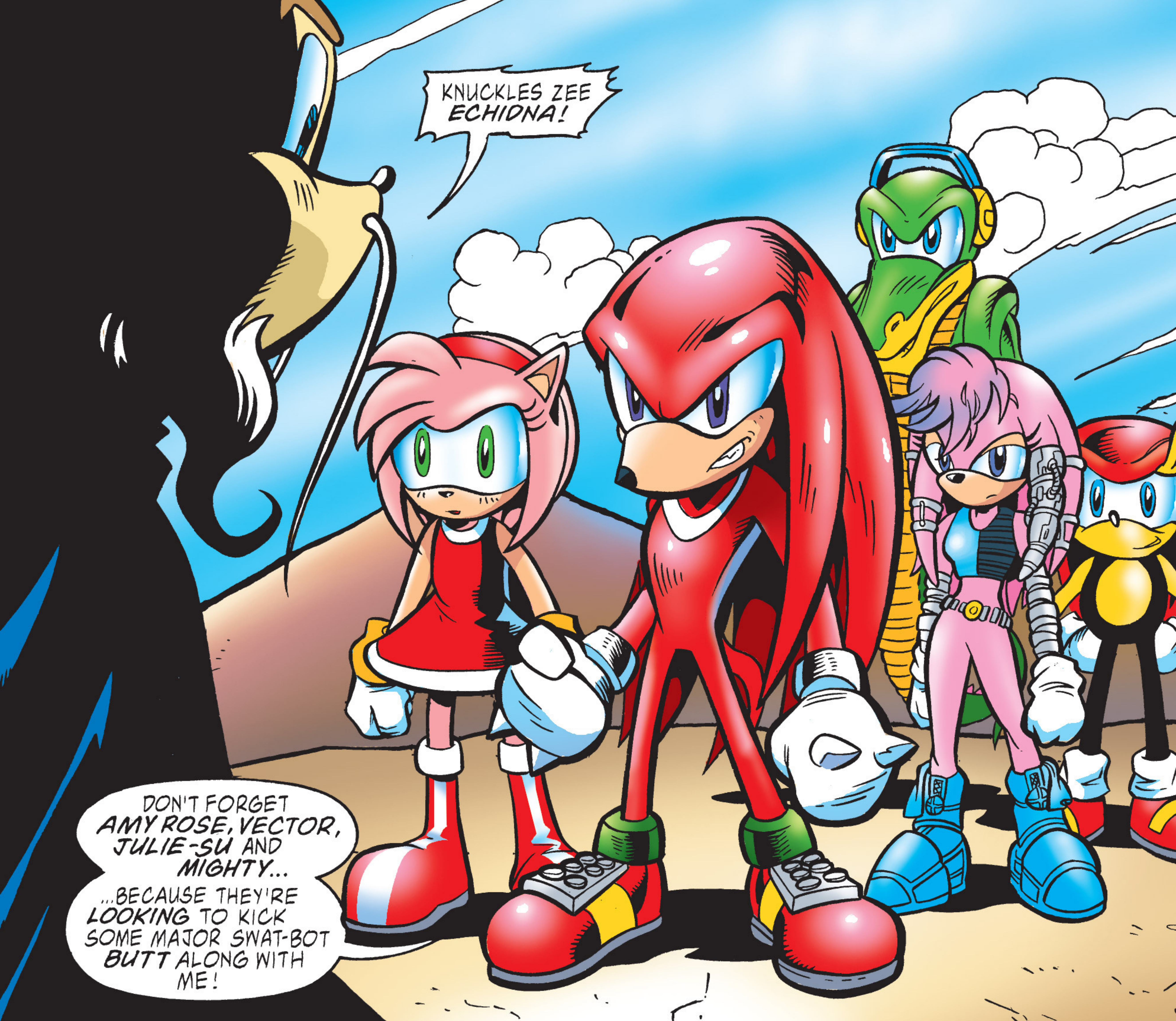


"WE ESTIMATE YOUR ARRIVAL IN OLD MEGAOPOLIS..."



"...INSIDE OF THIRTY MINUTES."





KNUCKLES ZEE ECHIDNA!

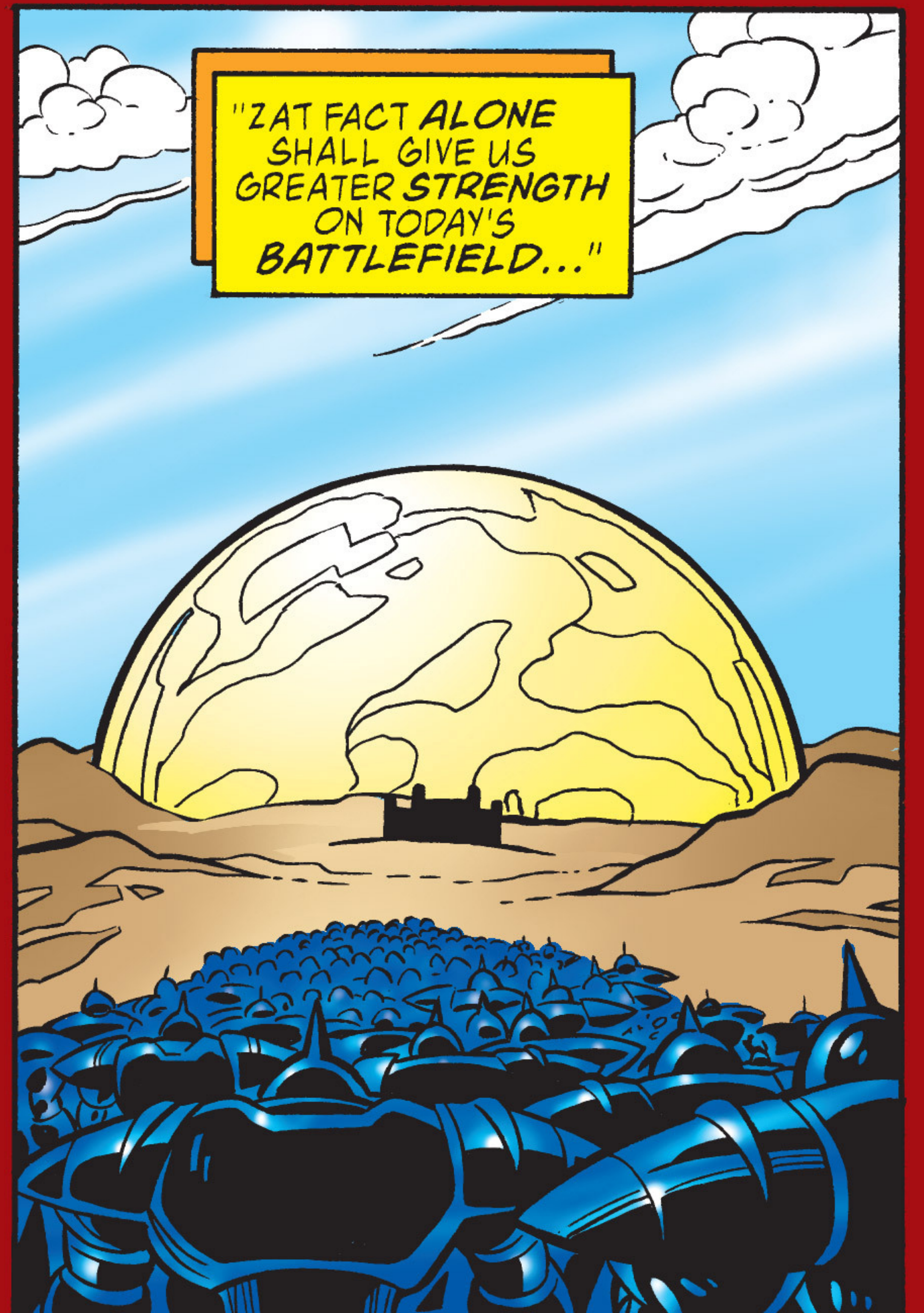
DON'T FORGET AMY ROSE, VECTOR, JULIE-SU AND MIGHTY...
...BECAUSE THEY'RE LOOKING TO KICK SOME MAJOR SWAT-BOT BUTT ALONG WITH ME!



WE WELCOME ALL OF YOU, EEZ EET TRUE WHAT MY MEN TELL ME? EEZ SON-EEK... ALIVE?

NOW MORE THAN EVER, GENERAL!

TRÉS BON!



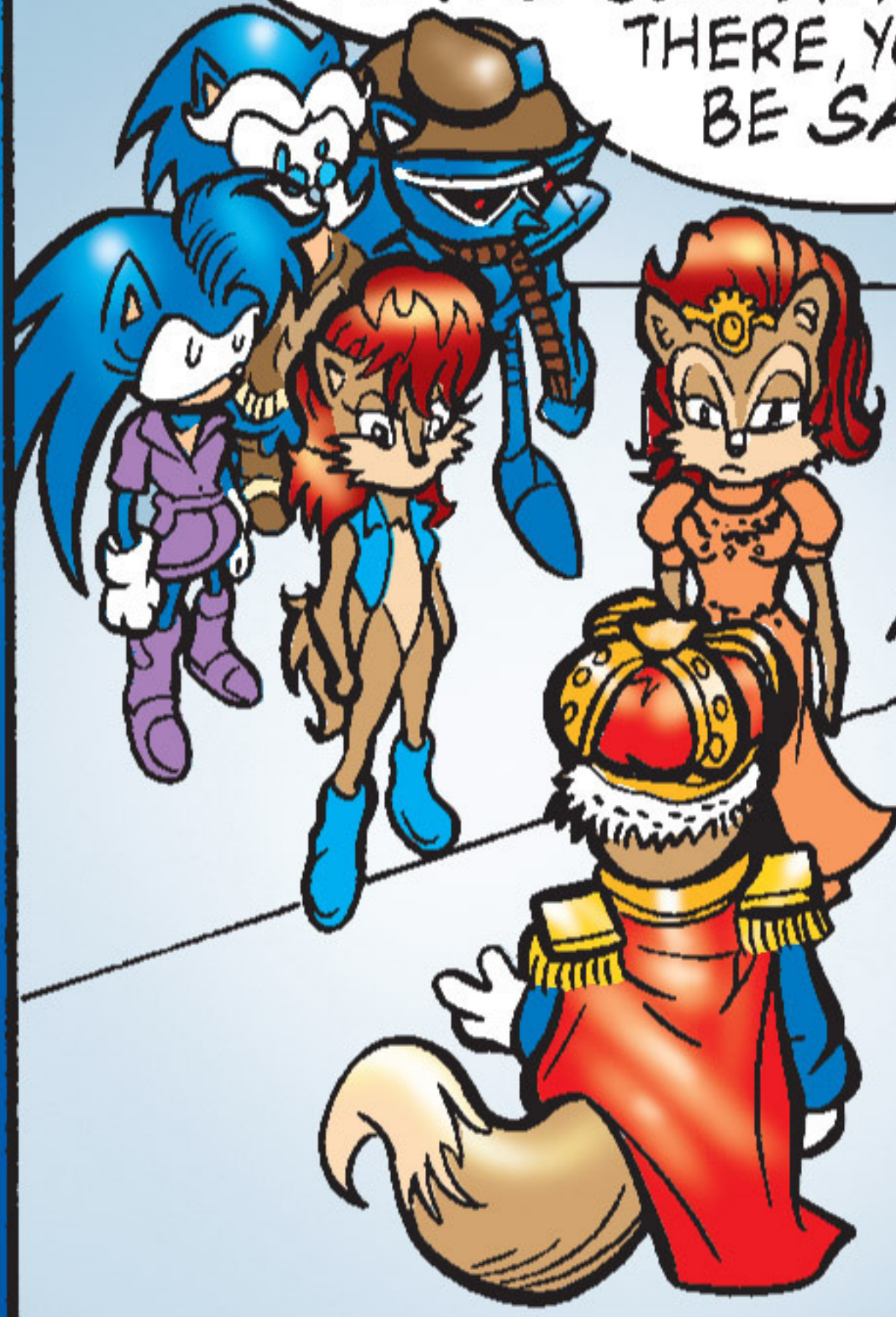
"ZAT FACT ALONE SHALL GIVE US GREATER STRENGTH ON TODAY'S BATTLEFIELD..."

CASTLE ACORN KNOTHOLE CITY

THE CITIZENS HAVE BEGUN MOVING INTO THE FALLOUT SHELTERS WITHOUT INCIDENT, SIRE.

SO FAR SO GOOD, SIR CHARLES.

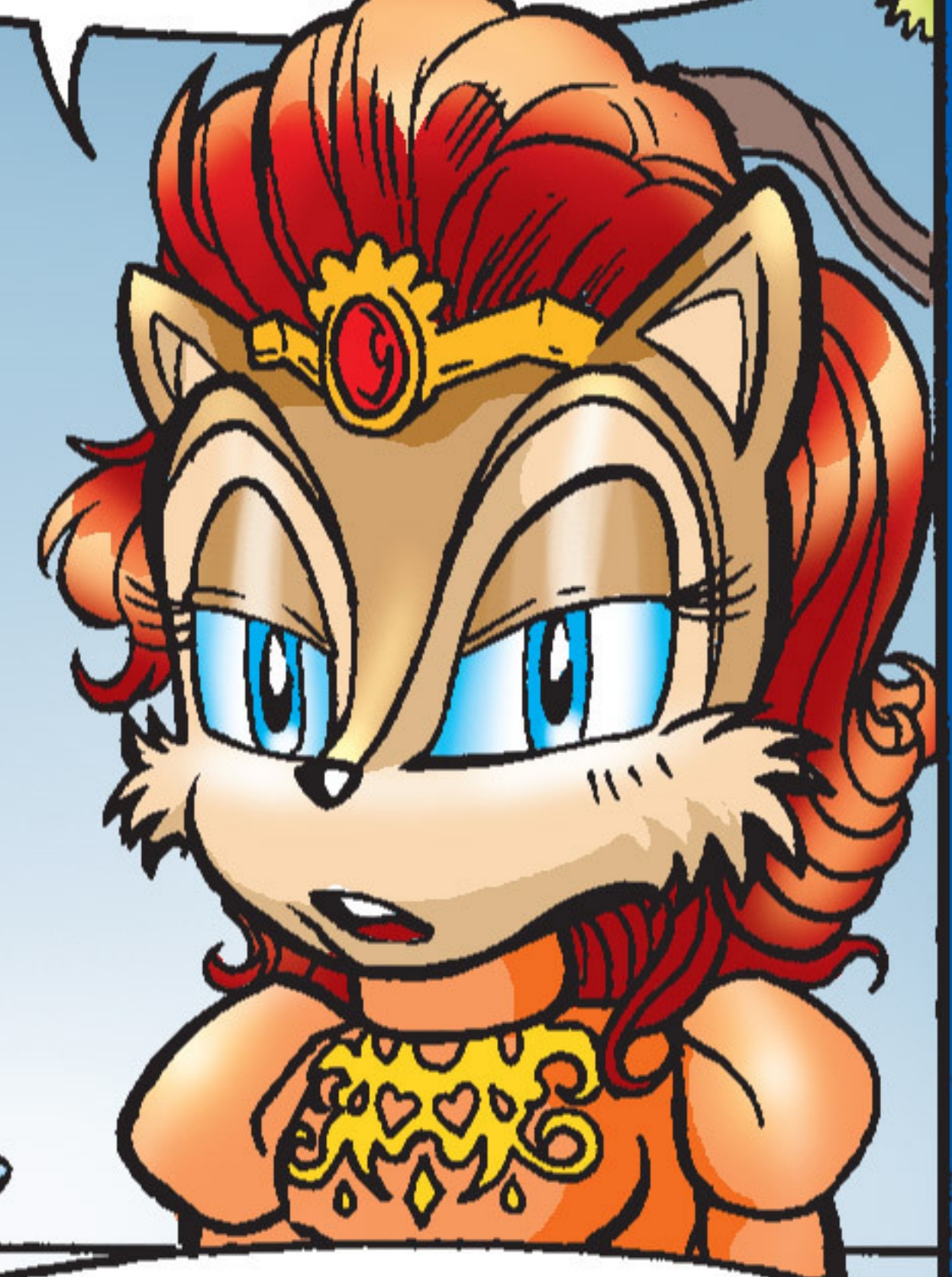
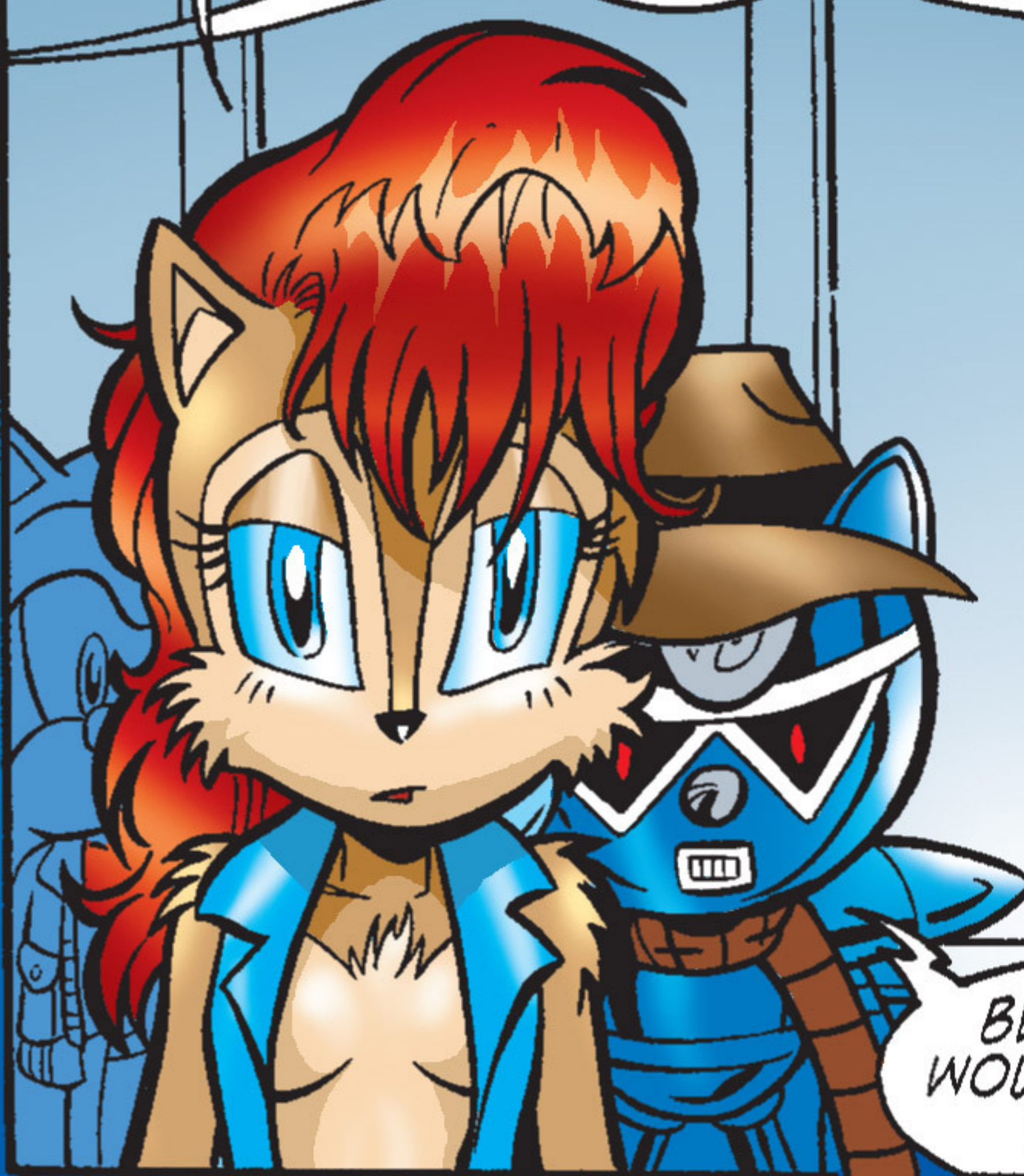
NOW, I'D LIKE FOR ALL YOU TO ACCOMPANY MY ELITE GUARD TO THE ROYAL BUNKER AT ONCE. THERE, YOU'LL BE SAFE.



NO WAY, DADDY. I'M NOT LEAVING.

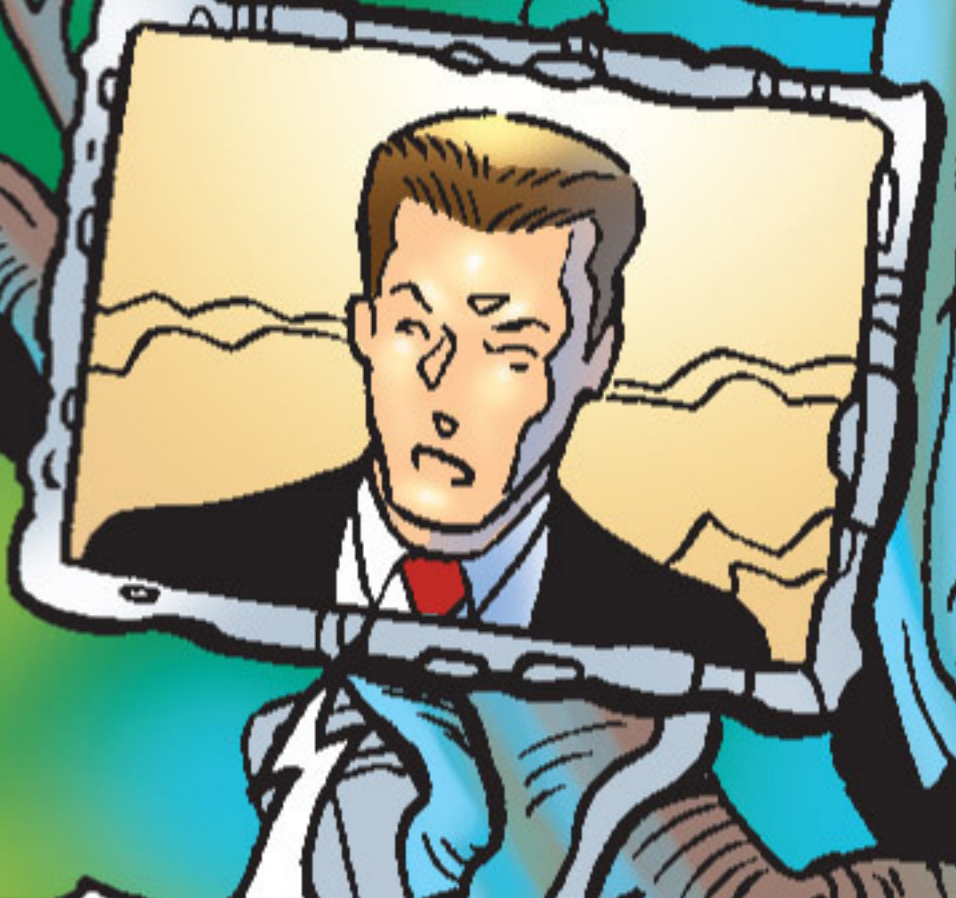
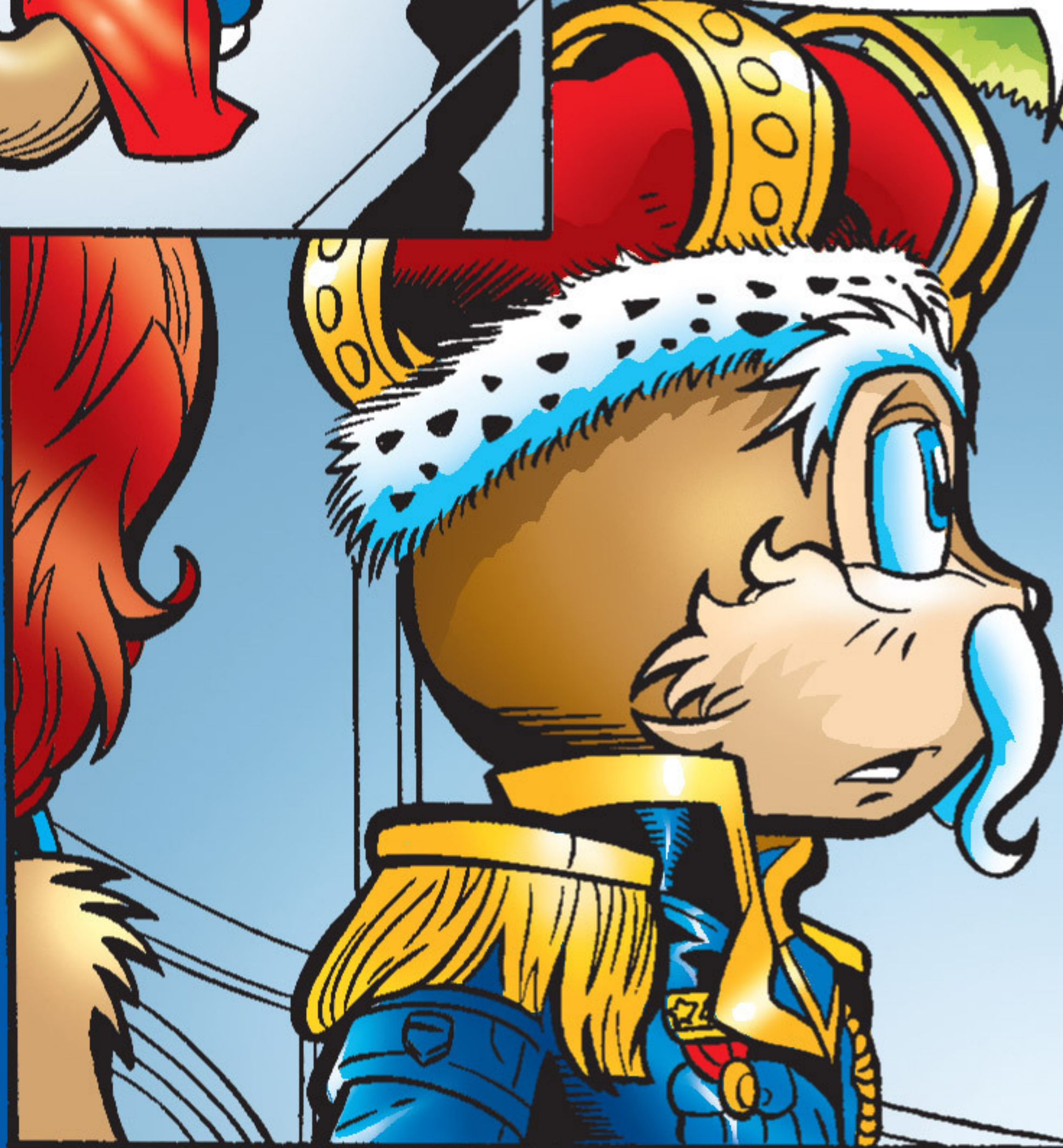
ALICIA-- REASON WITH HER.

I CAN'T, MAXIMILLIAN, NOT WHEN SHE'S RIGHT. SALLY AND I AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE WITHOUT YOU.



BERNIE, CHUCK, AND I WOULD LIKE TO STAY AS WELL, YOUR HIGHNESS.

:-SIGH:- VERY WELL, JULES. MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE YOU BEGUN TO EVACUATE STATION SQUARE?



:-Ahem:- IN THE INTEREST OF PREVENTING A WIDE-SPREAD PANIC, WE'VE OPTED NOT TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE IMPENDING ATOMIC THREAT.

YOUR WAYS BAFBLE ME, MR. PRESIDENT.

GUESS WE HOMO-SAPIENS JUST DON'T THINK QUITE THE SAME WAY YOU MOBO SAPIENS DO, MAX.

BYGONES. TO BRING YOU UP TO SPEED I'VE DISPATCHED TWO STRIKE TEAMS--ONE TO OLD MEGAOPOLIS TO STOP THE LAUNCH...

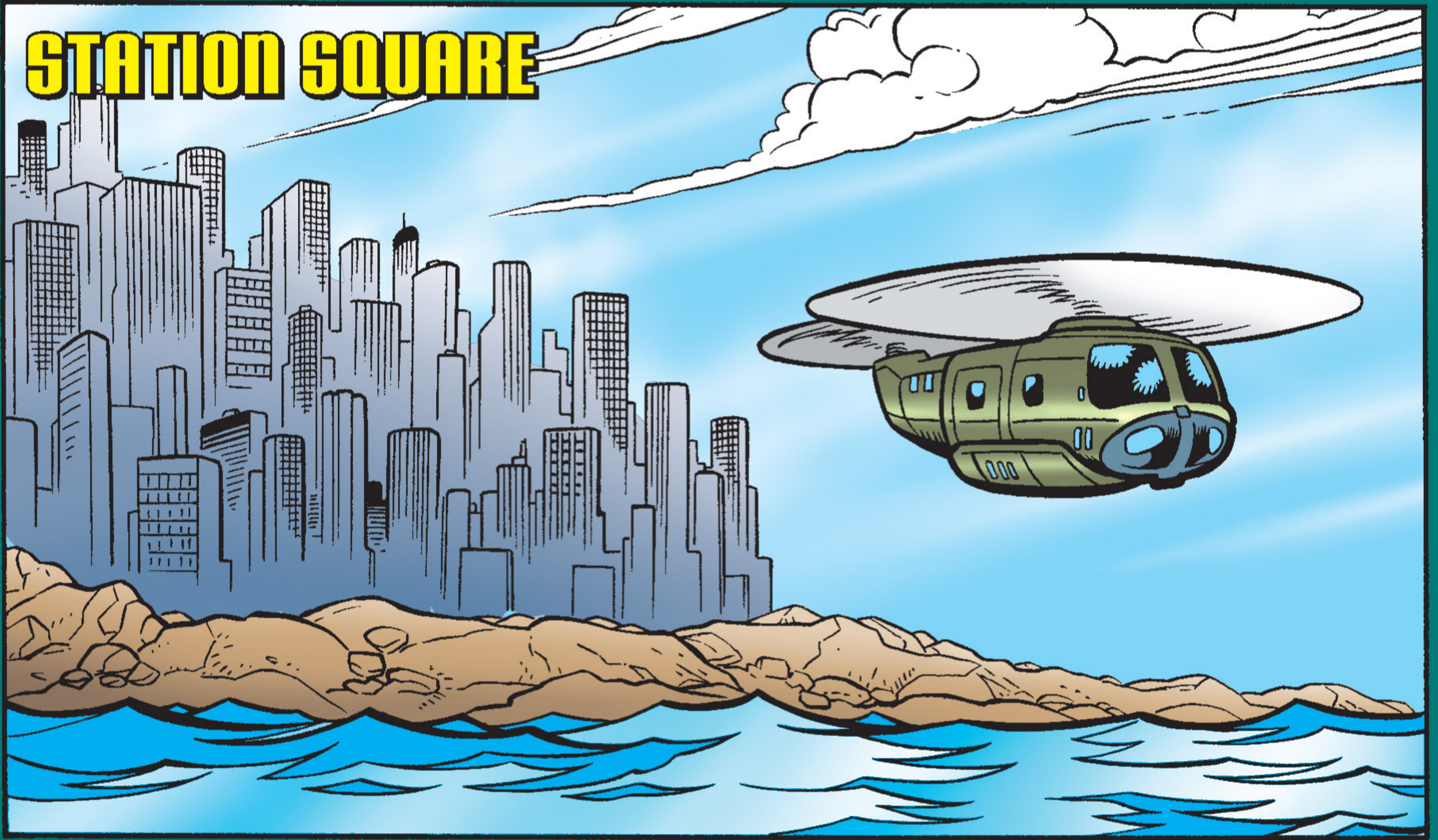
...AND ANOTHER TO DEFEND ROBOTROPOLIS AGAINST THE SWAT-BOT ARMY.



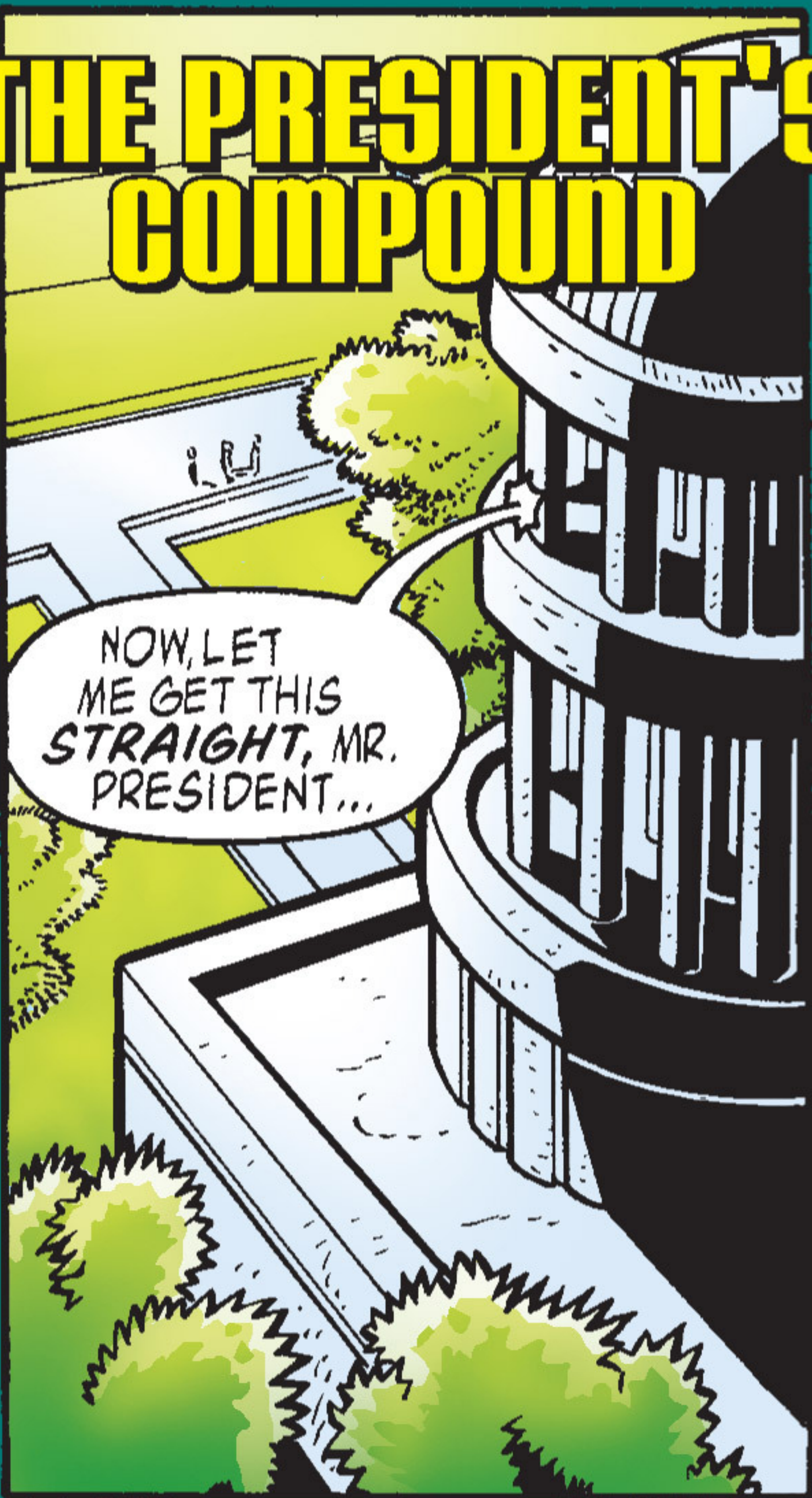
WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS, MAX, AND I ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO HELP.



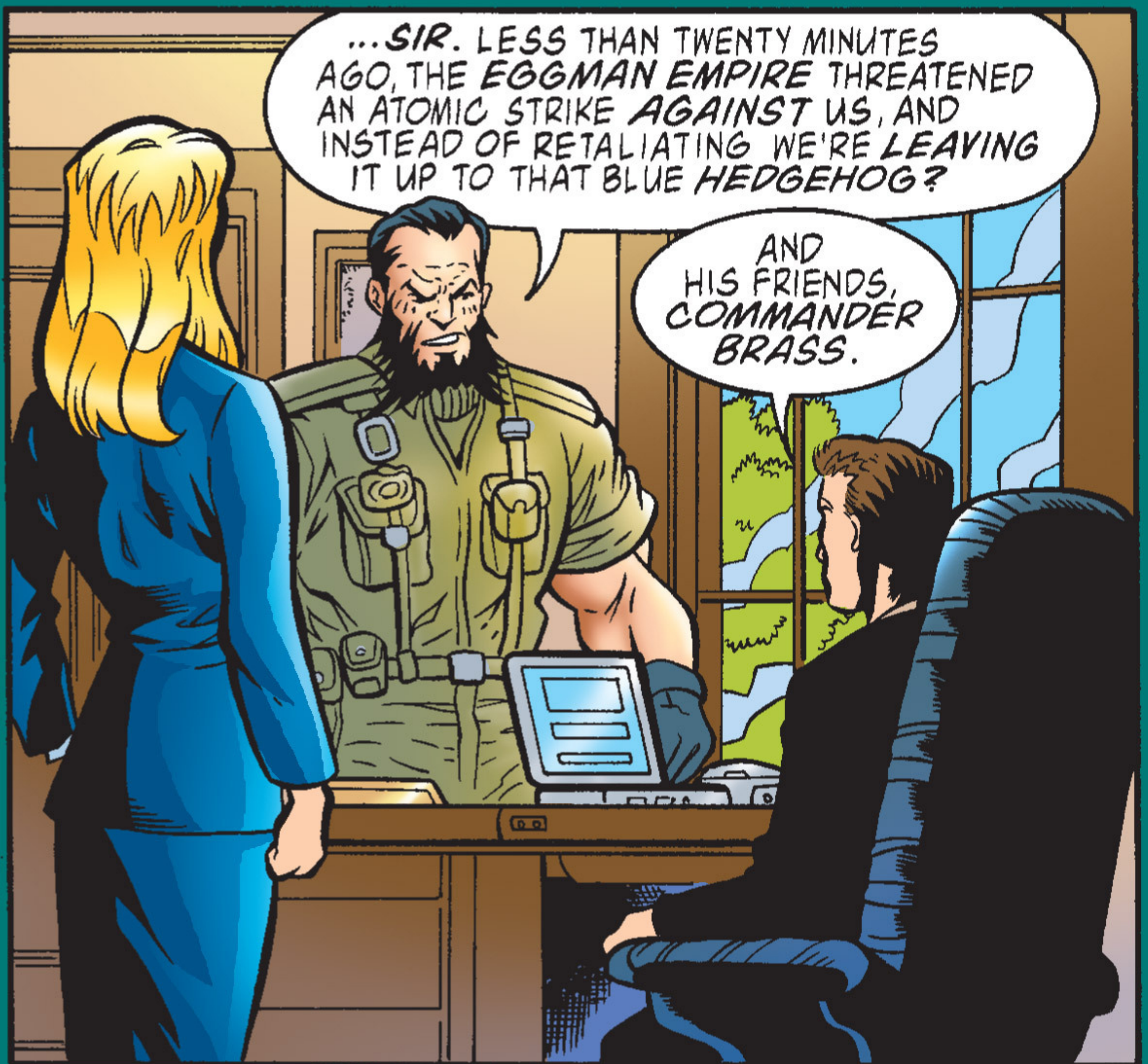
STATION SQUARE



THE PRESIDENT'S COMPOUND



NOW, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, MR. PRESIDENT...

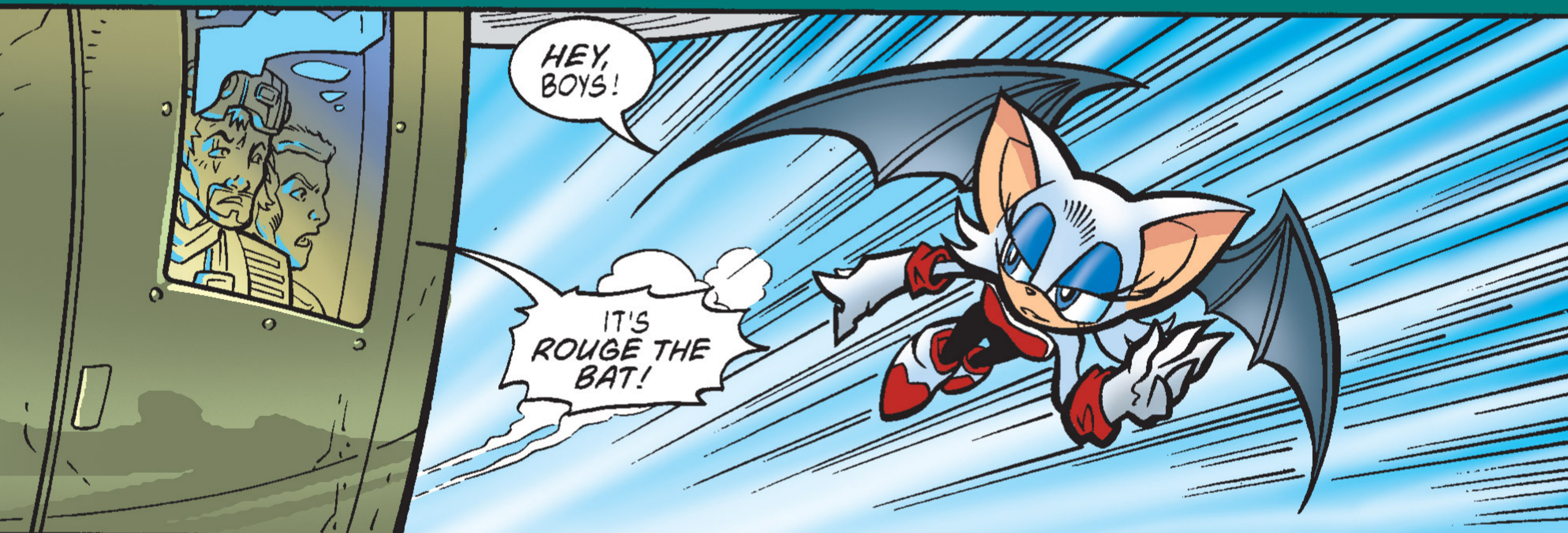
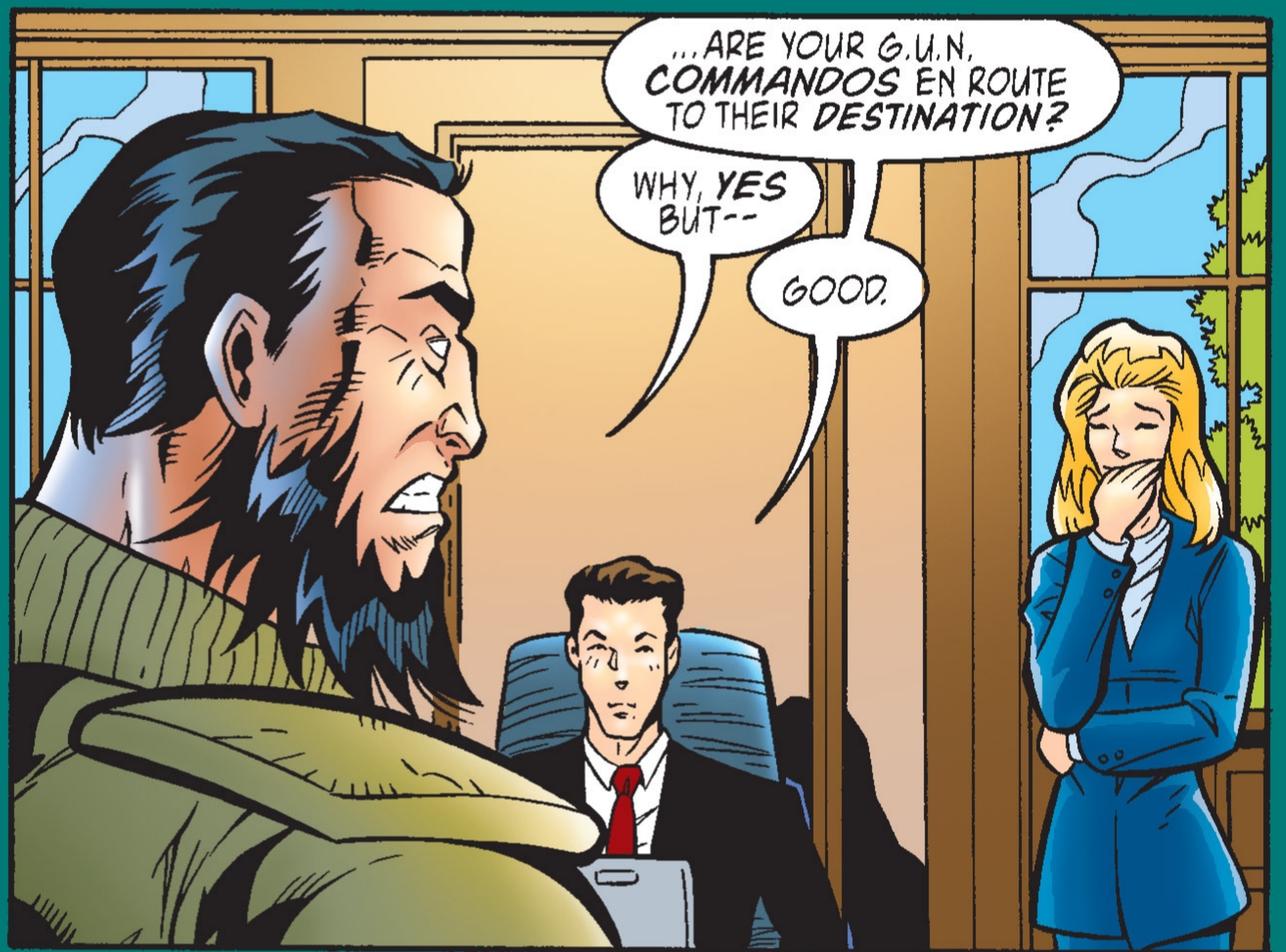


...SIR. LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES AGO, THE EGGMAN EMPIRE THREATENED AN ATOMIC STRIKE AGAINST US, AND INSTEAD OF RETALIATING WE'RE LEAVING IT UP TO THAT BLUE HEDGEHOG?

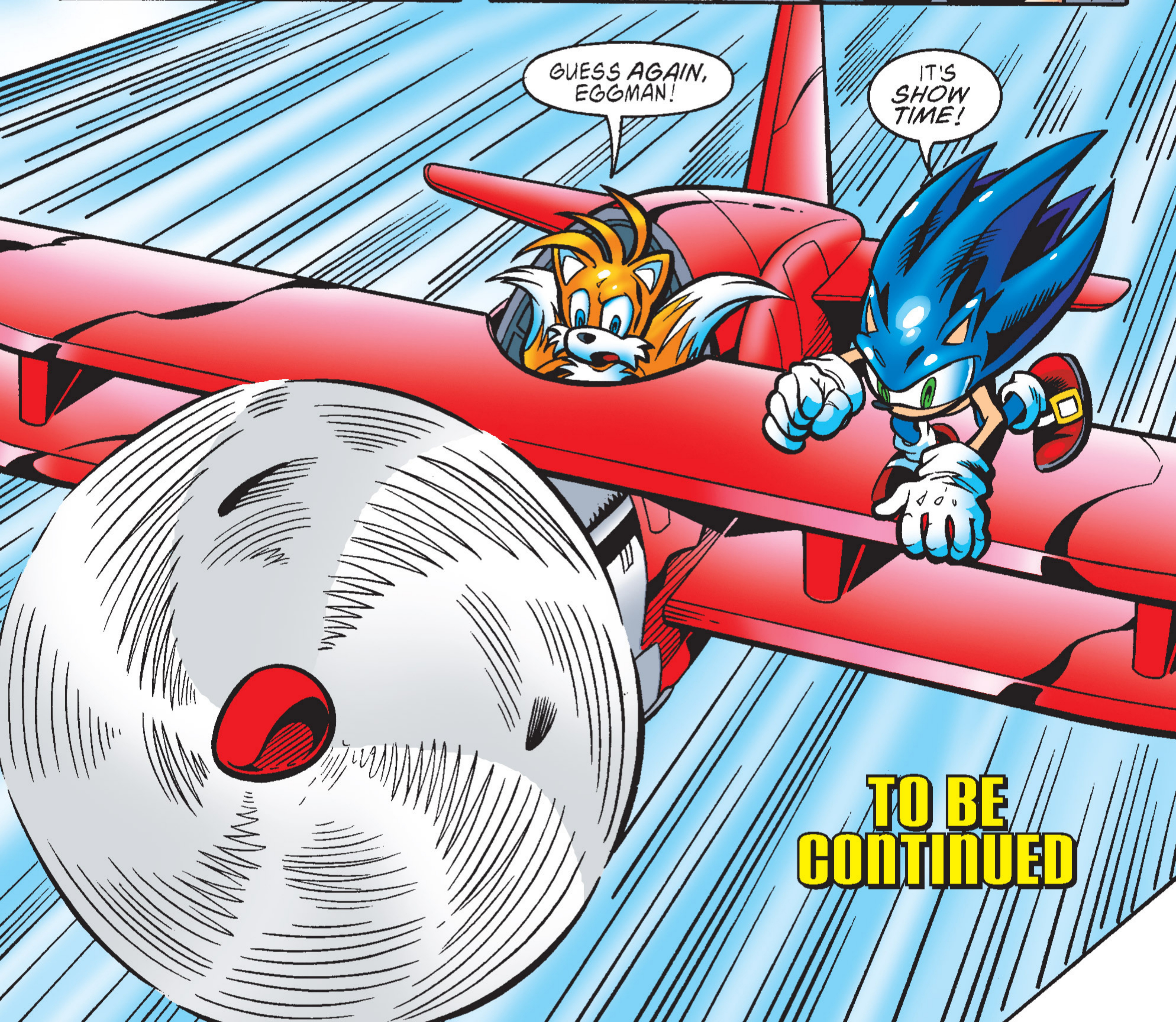
AND HIS FRIENDS, COMMANDER BRASS.



MR. PRESIDENT, THE XORDA ATTACK LAST YEAR LEFT OUR CITY EXPOSED... VULNERABLE. G.U.N IS SERIOUSLY URGING YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION.



OLD MEGACOPOLIS HARBOR



TO BE CONTINUED

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, MANY HAVE SOUGHT TO KNOW THE **FUTURE** -- WHETHER OUT OF PERSONAL GAIN, THE COMMON GOOD OR SIMPLY NOTHING MORE THAN CURIOSITY!

SINCE MY INITIATION INTO **MYSTIC ARTS**, I HAVE EVER BEEN AWARE OF THE DESTINY OF THOSE NEAR AND DEAR TO ME!

YOU WERE **BORN** AND RAISED TO BE A **QUEEN**, SALLY!

BUT **ME?**

I STAND NOW AT THE **CROSS-ROADS** OF WORLDS ABOUT TO **COLLIDE** --

-- OF **SECRETS** LONG HELD NOW **REVEALED** --

-- AT LONG LAST, ON --

I THRIVE ON ACTION -- **FAST** MOVES AND **ADVENTURE!**

LISTENING TO EVERYONE RAG AND MAKING DECISIONS JUST **ISN'T** MY BAG!

INDUBIUS

25 YEARS LATER



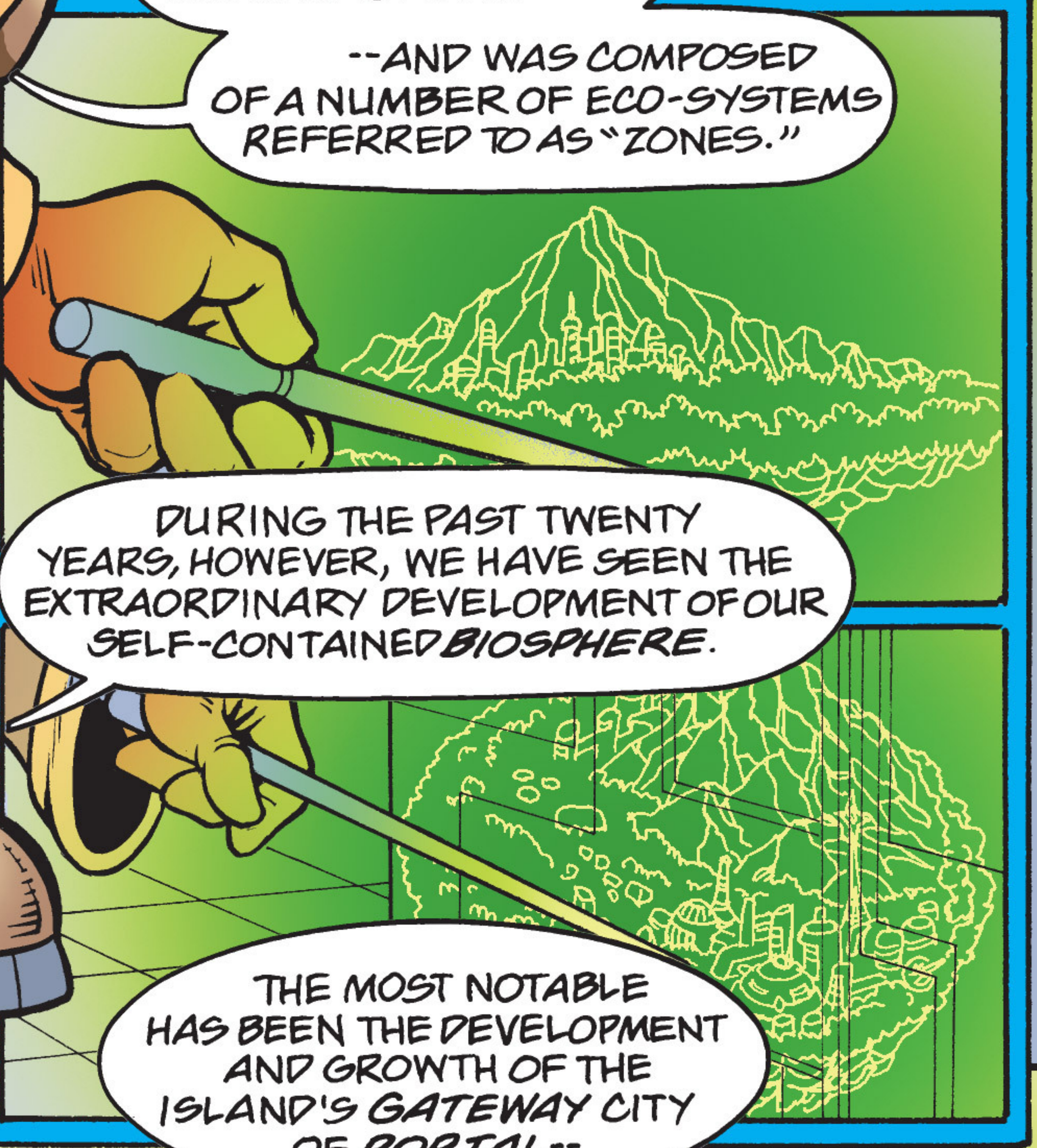
FOR TODAY'S SOCIAL STUDIES LESSON, CLASS--

--WE WILL USE ANGEL ISLAND AS OUR EXAMPLE!

ANGEL ISLAND HAS EXISTED IN ITS PRESENT FORM FOR WELL OVER HALF A MILLENNIA.

PROBABLY SEEMS LIKE ANCIENT HISTORY TO YOU PEOPLE, BUT ACTUALLY IT'S JUST A BLIP IN THE ENTIRE EXISTENCE OF MOBIUS!

UNTIL RECENTLY, IT HAD ONLY ONE CITY-- ECHIDNAOPOLIS--



--AND WAS COMPOSED OF A NUMBER OF ECO-SYSTEMS REFERRED TO AS "ZONES."

DURING THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE SEEN THE EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SELF-CONTAINED BIOSPHERE.

THE MOST NOTABLE HAS BEEN THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE ISLAND'S GATEWAY CITY OF PORTAL--



-- WHICH HAS FUNCTIONED AS OUR CHIEF LINK OF COMMERCE AND TRAVEL WITH THE MAINLAND CONTINENTS BELOW.

AT THE SAME TIME, ECHIDNAOPOLIS EVOLVED INTO THE CENTRAL CHAIR OF GOVERNMENT FOR ECHIDNAS EVERYWHERE--

-- AND HAS COME TO BE RECOGNIZED AS THE OLDEST DEMOCRACY ON MOBIUS!

YES, RIKI-LE?

IF WE'RE A DEMOCRACY, HOW COME ON THE WORLD MAP IT SAYS REPUBLIC OF ANGEL ISLAND?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION. ANYONE HAVE AN ANSWER? CLASS?

JAKER.

BECAUSE THE ECHIDNAS DIDN'T BELIEVE IN A MONARCHY, UNLIKE MOST BACKWARD CULTURES ON MOBIUS!

NOT QUITE. ANYONE ELSE?

LARA-SU?

BECAUSE THE CITIZENS ELECT THE REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE LAWS AND DECISIONS!

VERY GOOD!

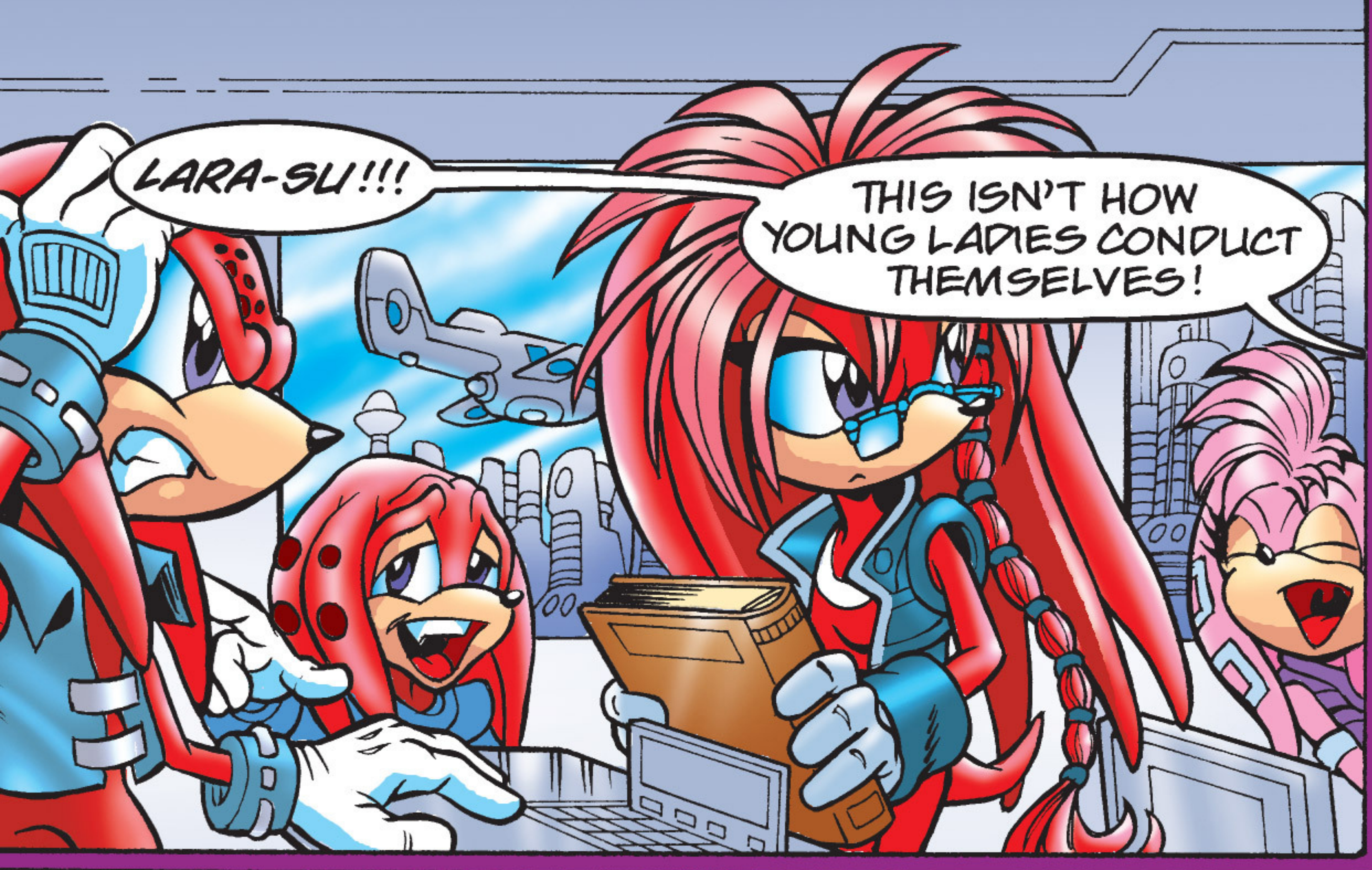
WHAT ABOUT THE GUARDIAN, MR. PERRIWINKLE, WHO ELECTED HIM?

SPECIAL AS IN WHAT? YOU MEAN WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SOMEDAY BOW TO MISS SUNSHINE HERE?

YOU BEAST!!!

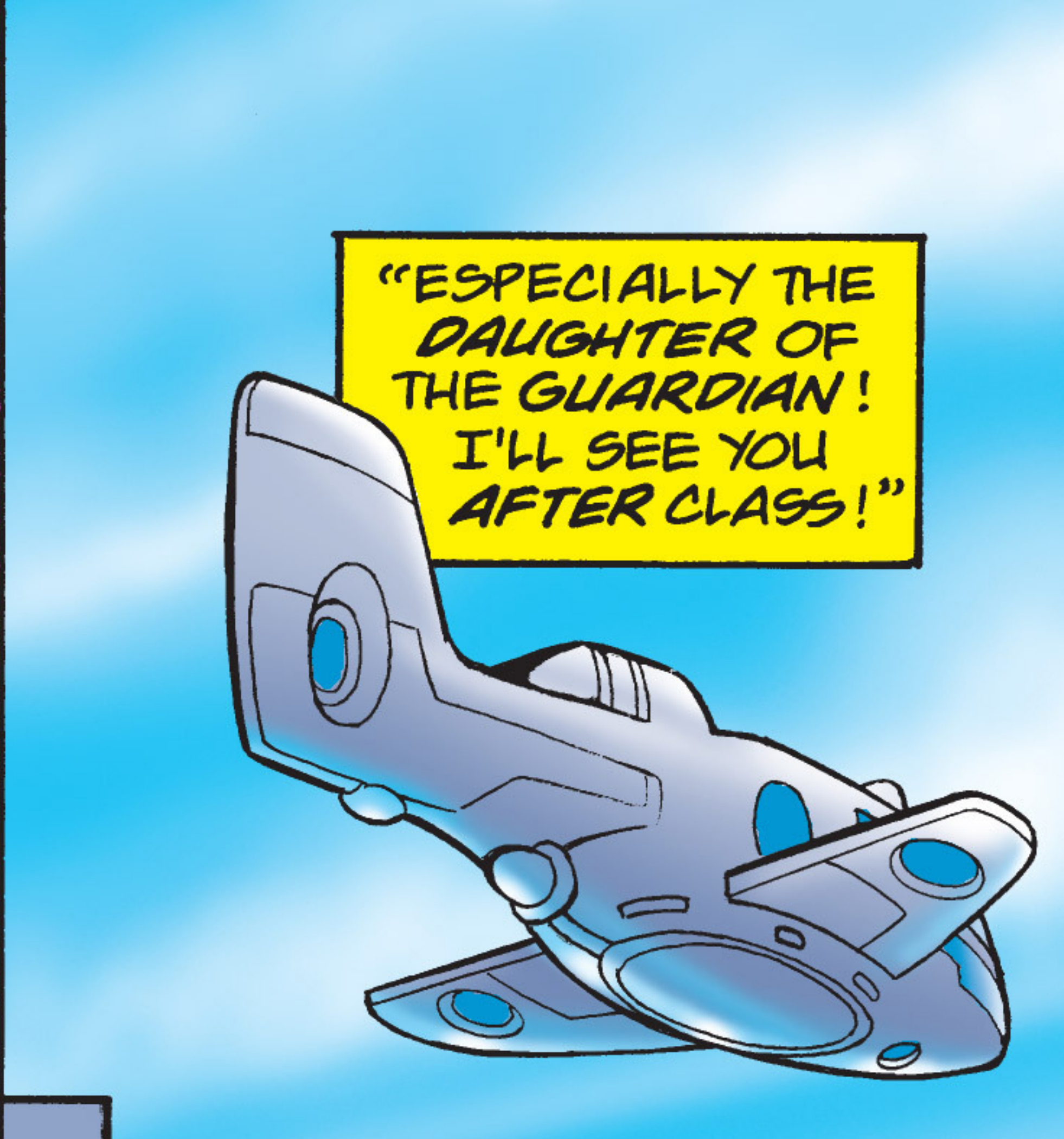
AH, THE GUARDIAN-- NOW HE IS ACCORDED A SPECIAL STATUS IN OUR SOCIETY, RUTAN!

THWAK!



LARA-SU!!!

THIS ISN'T HOW YOUNG LADIES CONDUCT THEMSELVES!



"ESPECIALLY THE DAUGHTER OF THE GUARDIAN! I'LL SEE YOU AFTER CLASS!"



SHUTTLE 3B ARRIVING FROM MOBOTROPOLIS--

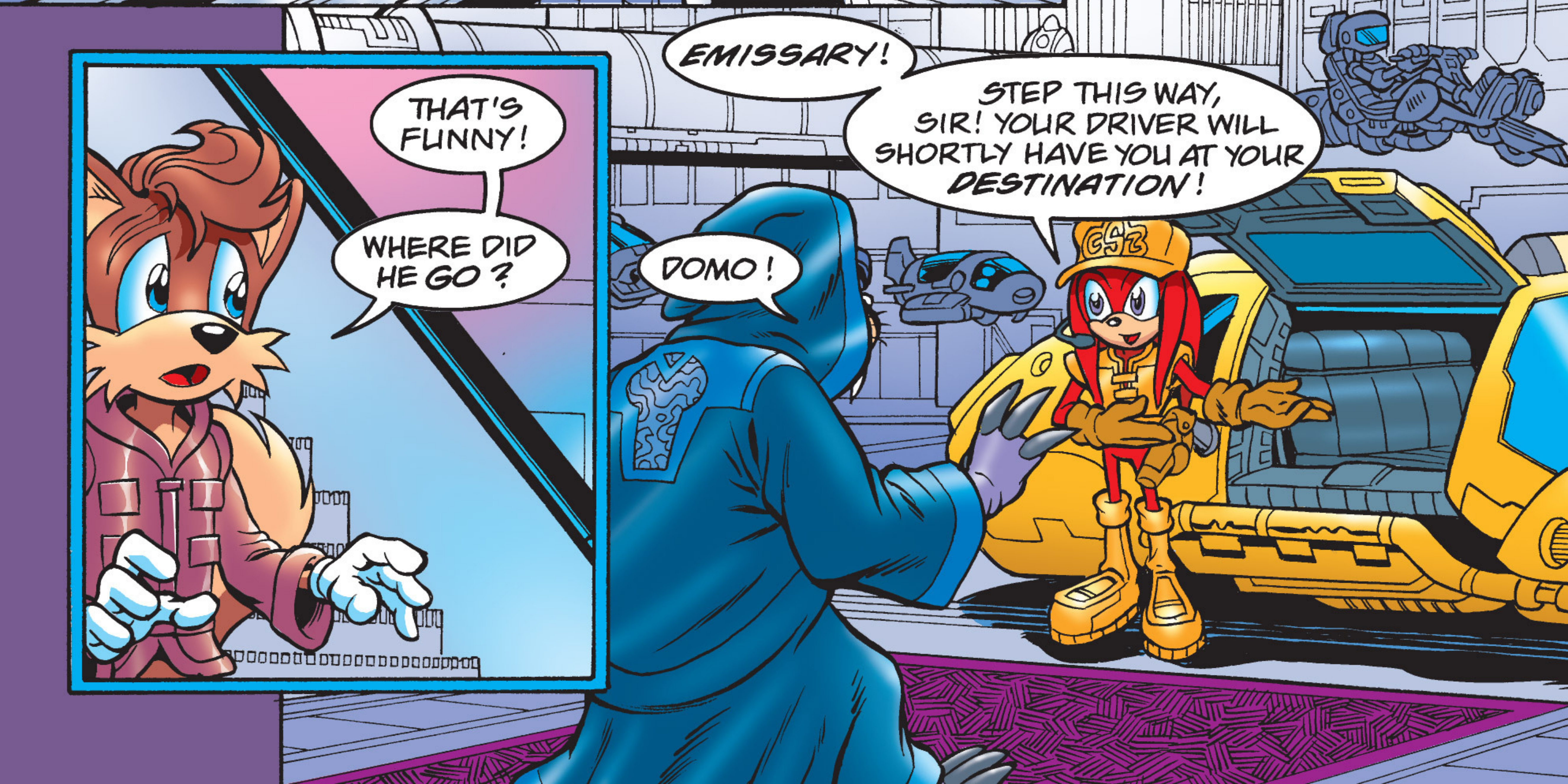
--NOW DOCKING AT GATE FIVE!



THIS YOUR FIRST TRIP, FRIEND?

I COME HERE ON BUSINESS ALL THE TIME!

YES. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL DAY, ISN'T IT?



EMISSARY!

STEP THIS WAY, SIR! YOUR DRIVER WILL SHORTLY HAVE YOU AT YOUR DESTINATION!

DOMO!



THAT'S FUNNY!

WHERE DID HE GO?

WELCOME TO THE ISLAND, GUV'NOR!

THE NAME'S HARRY--

--AND I'M AT YOUR BECK AND CALL DURING YOUR VISIT!

YOU HAVE CLEARANCES?
THE BEST!
MUM'S THE WORD AND ALL THAT!

GOOD.
WAIT HERE, THEN, FOR MY RETURN!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, ESPIO!

I'LL SAY, ROTOR! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO TOWN?

BUSINESS OR PERSONAL?

I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF THE KING AND QUEEN, WHO WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE GUARDIAN AND HIS FAMILY!

DINNER, EH?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE GOOD OL' DAYS WHEN EVERYBODY DIDN'T HAVE TO STAND ON CEREMONY?

I GUESS WE ALL GREW UP!

TELL SONIC AND SALLY NEXT SUNDAY WOULD BE FINE!

WILL THEY BE BRINGING THE CHILDREN?

AND?

He said of course--

--and added *Sonia* and *Manik* were especially excited at seeing *Lara-Su* again!

... SIGH...

Is that a problem?

JULIE-SU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A BOY HAVING A CRUSH ON LARA-SU!

You plan on doing some royal matchmaking?

HARDLY!

Maybe I should tell *Juanita*!

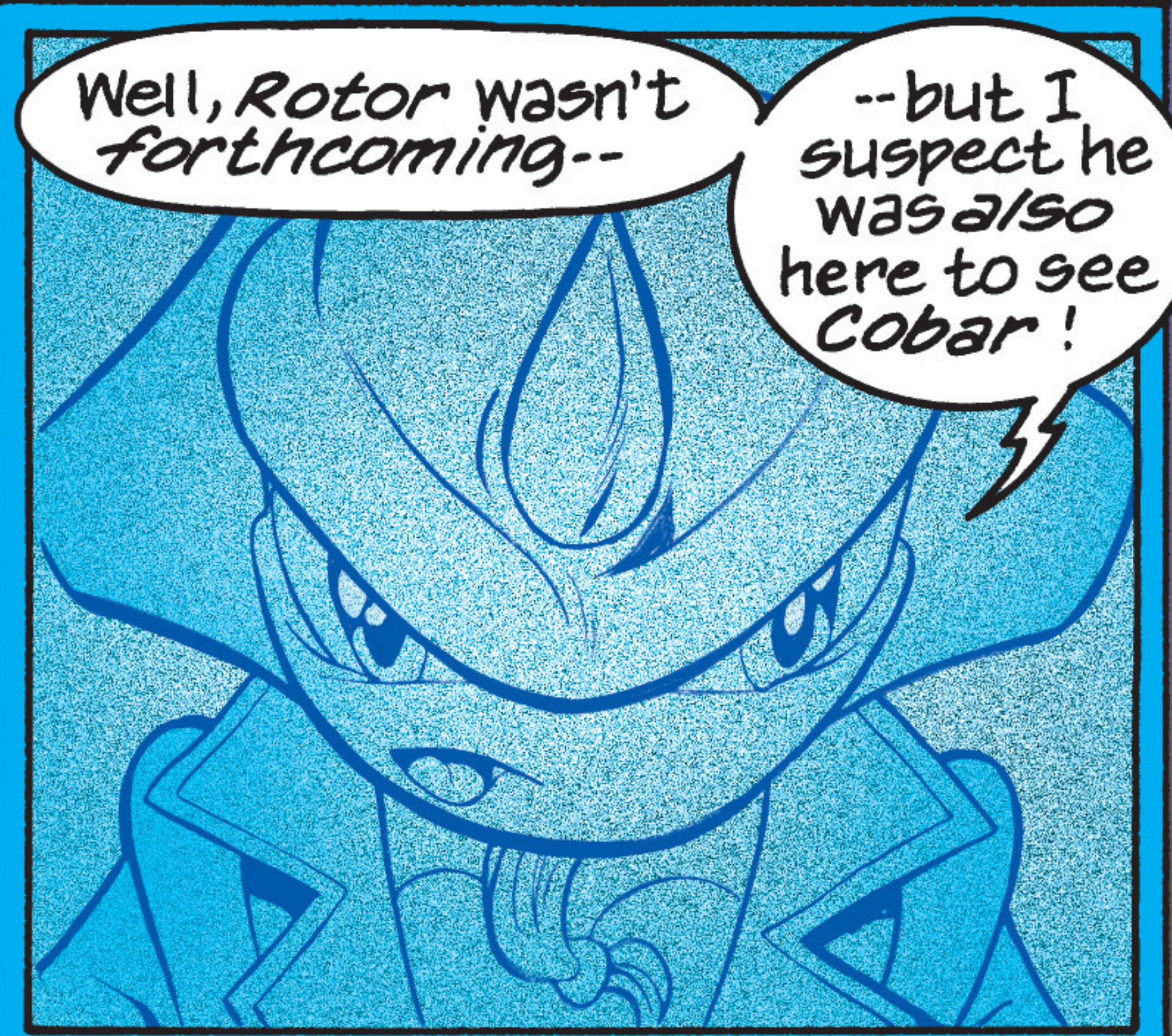
She'd love to date a prince!

AT LEAST THEY'RE CLOSER IN AGE!

BESIDES, YOU APPROVE OF HER DATING AT HER AGE?

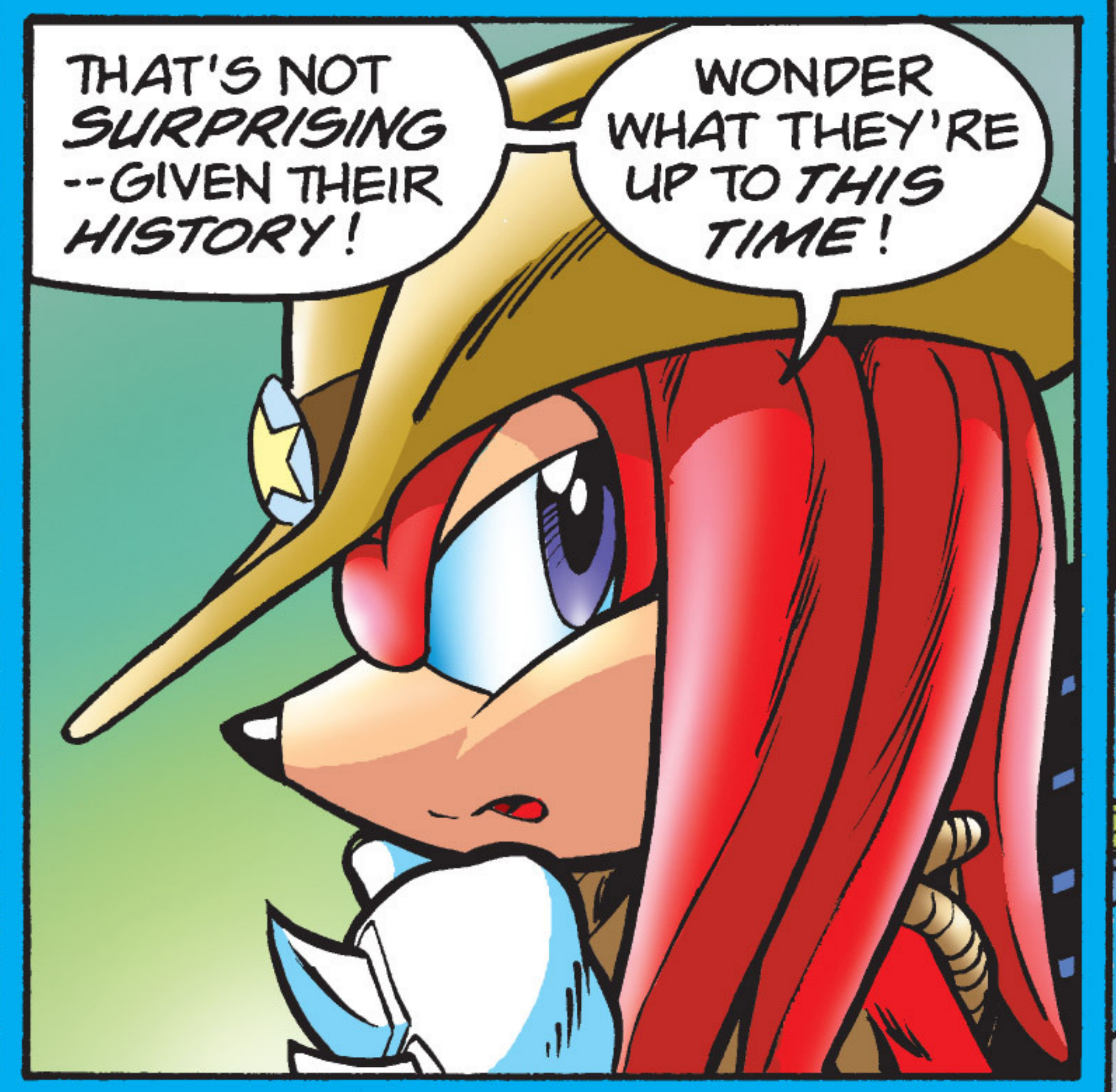
Bite your tongue, Knux!

ANYTHING ELSE?



Well, Rotor wasn't forthcoming--

--but I suspect he was also here to see Cobar!



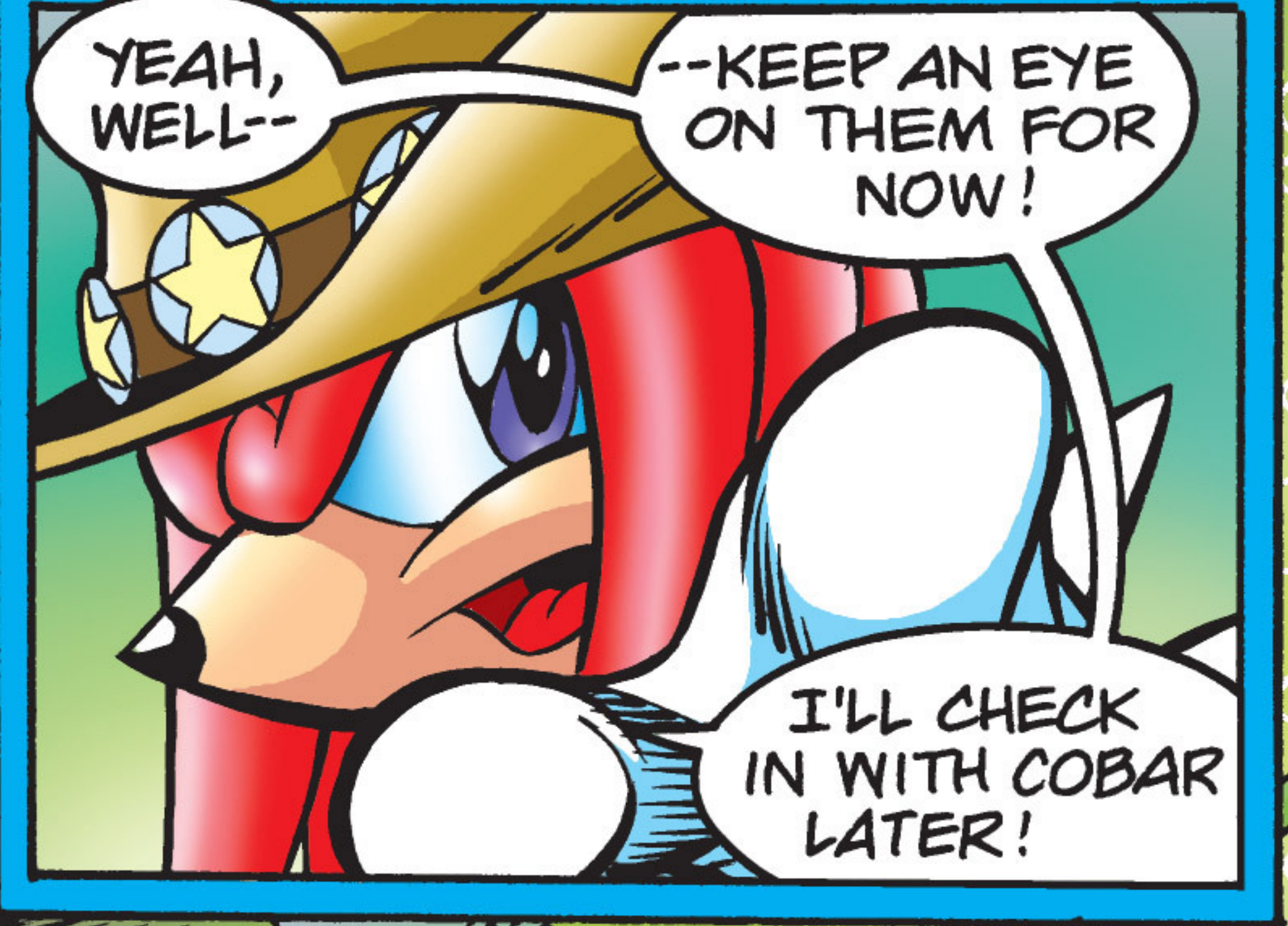
THAT'S NOT SURPRISING --GIVEN THEIR HISTORY!

WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO THIS TIME!



Pretty scary when two mad scientists get together!

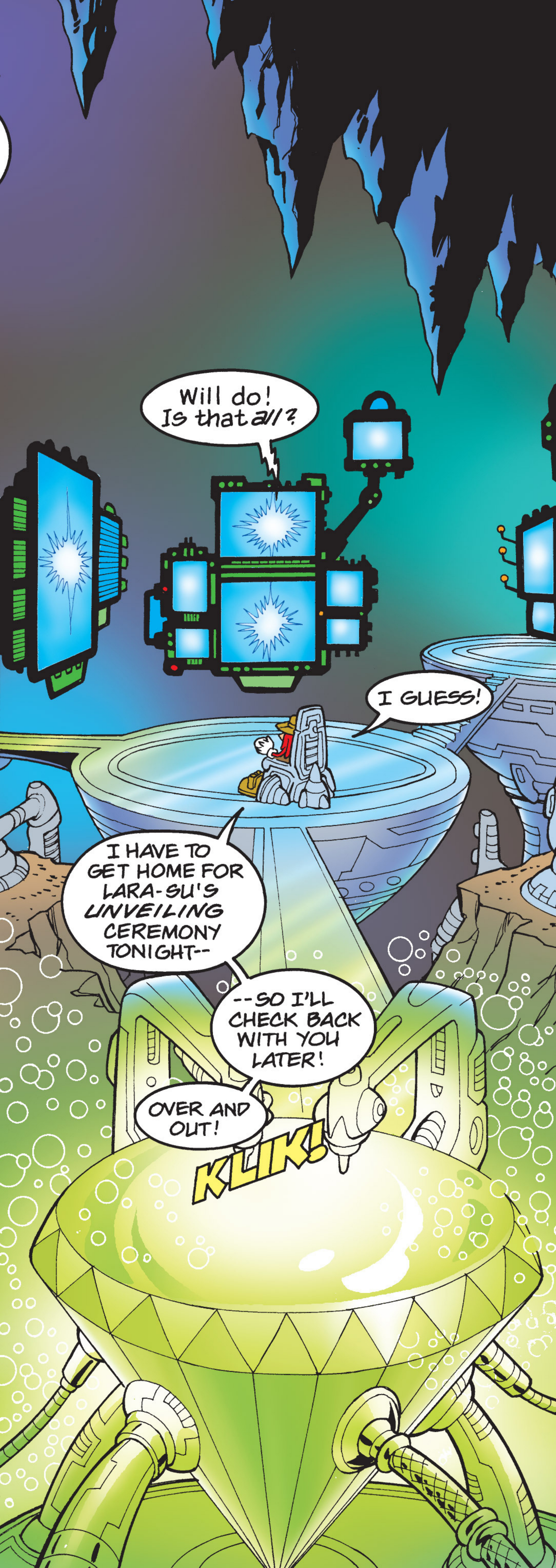
Considering their last project!



YEAH, WELL--

--KEEP AN EYE ON THEM FOR NOW!

I'LL CHECK IN WITH COBAR LATER!



Will do! Is that all?

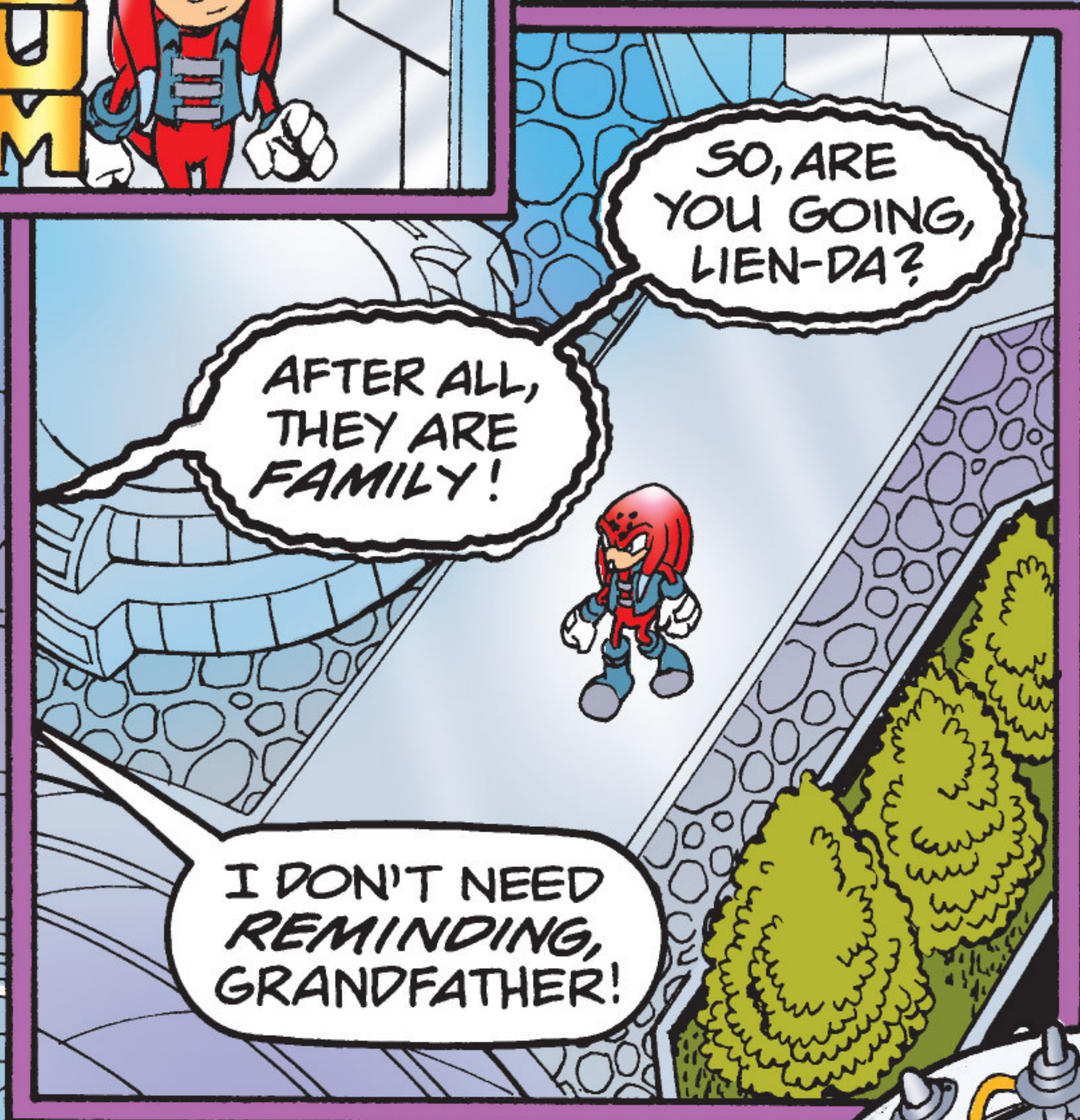
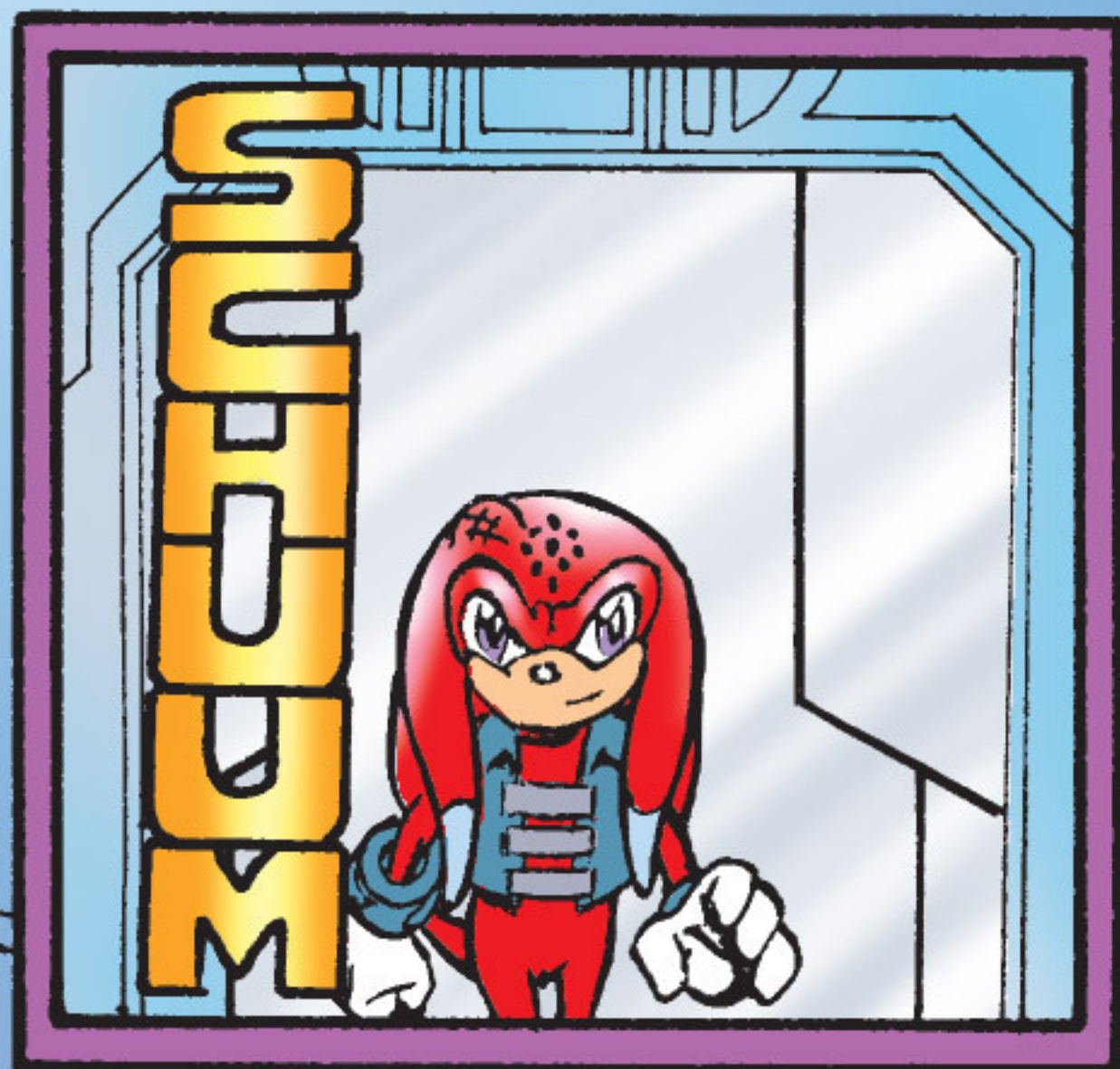
I GUESS!

I HAVE TO GET HOME FOR LARA-SU'S UNVEILING CEREMONY TONIGHT--

--SO I'LL CHECK BACK WITH YOU LATER!

OVER AND OUT!

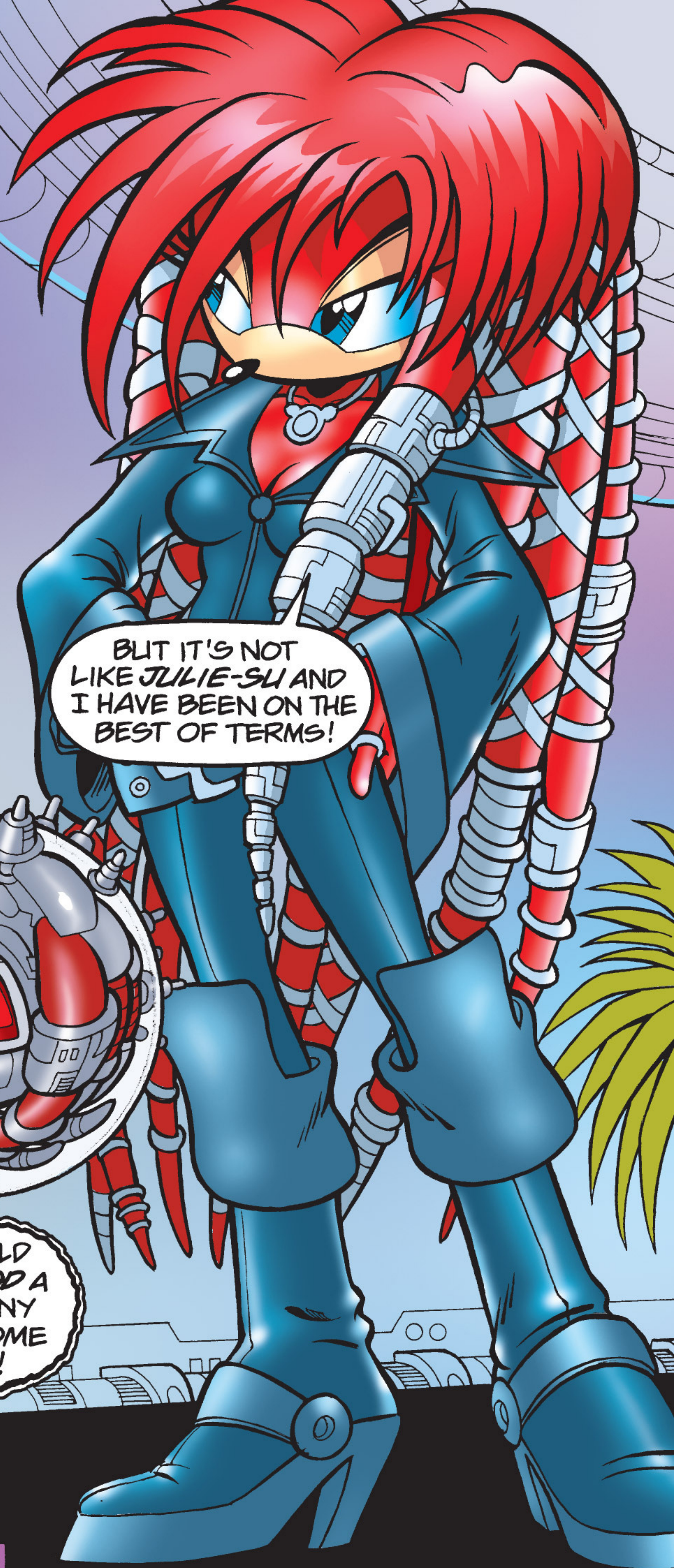
KLIK!



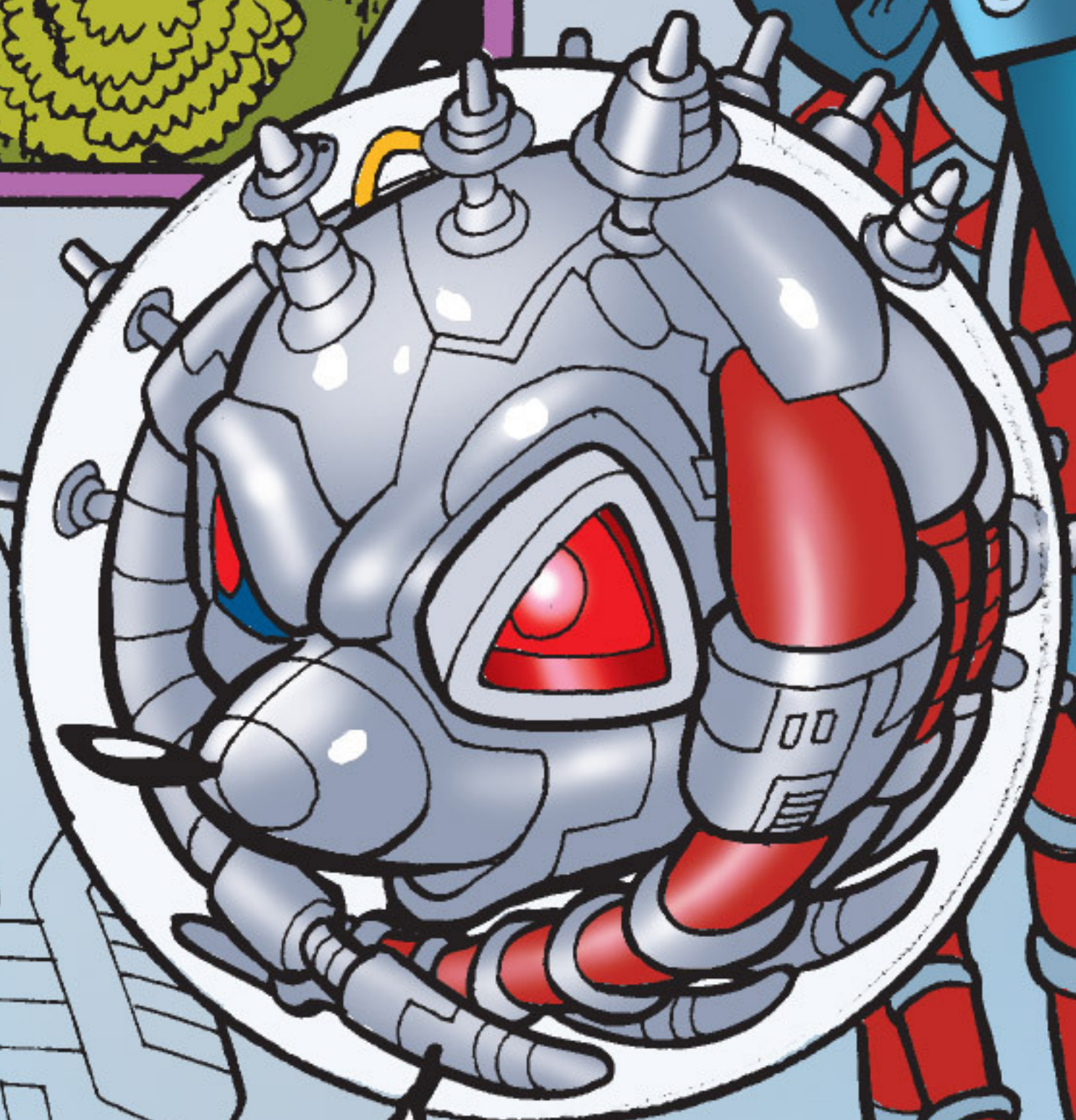
AFTER ALL, THEY ARE FAMILY!

SO, ARE YOU GOING, LIEN-DA?

I DON'T NEED REMINDING, GRANDFATHER!

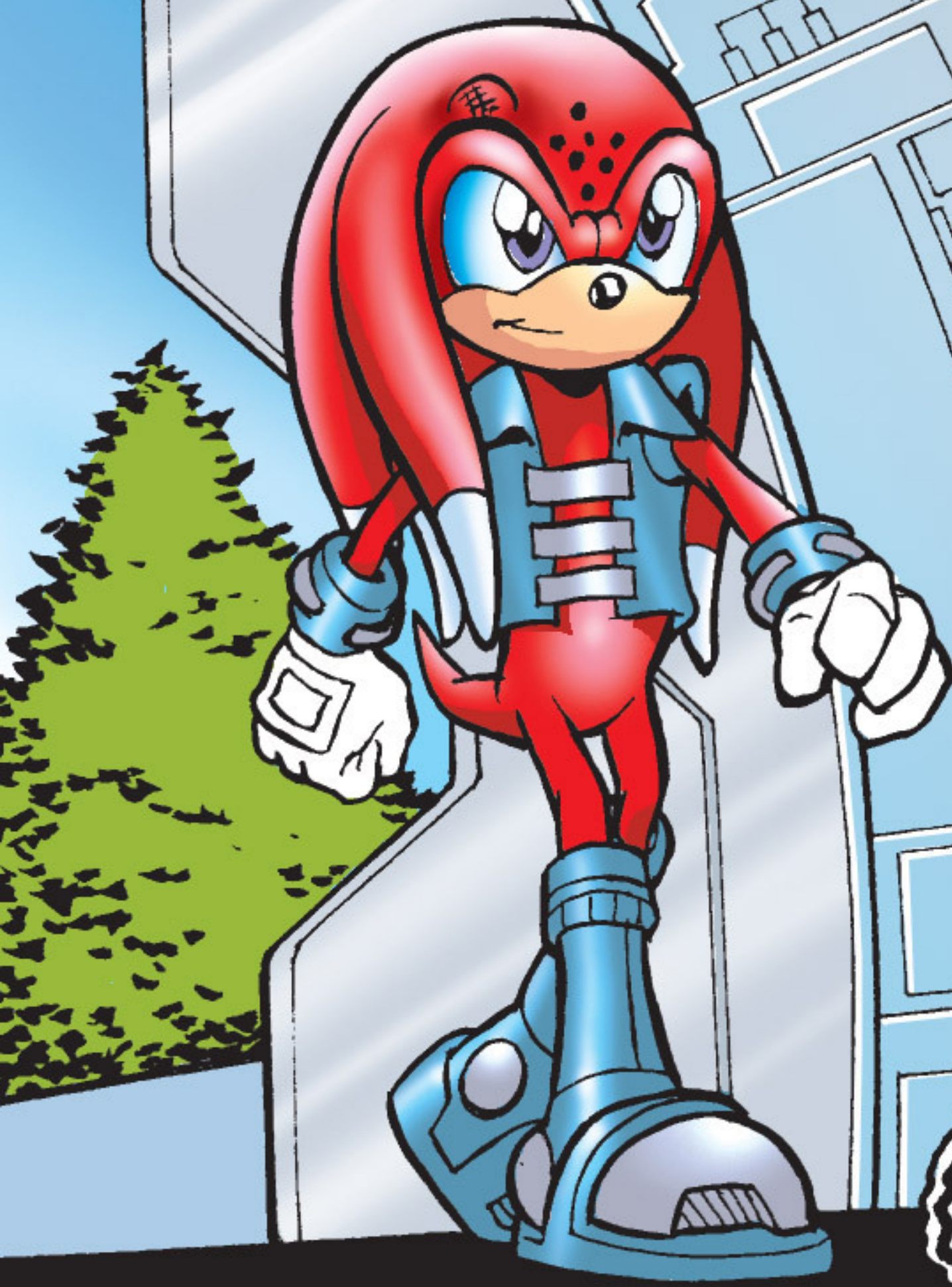


BUT IT'S NOT LIKE JULIE-SU AND I HAVE BEEN ON THE BEST OF TERMS!



NOW WOULD BE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO MEND SOME FENCES!!

HELLO, RUTAN!



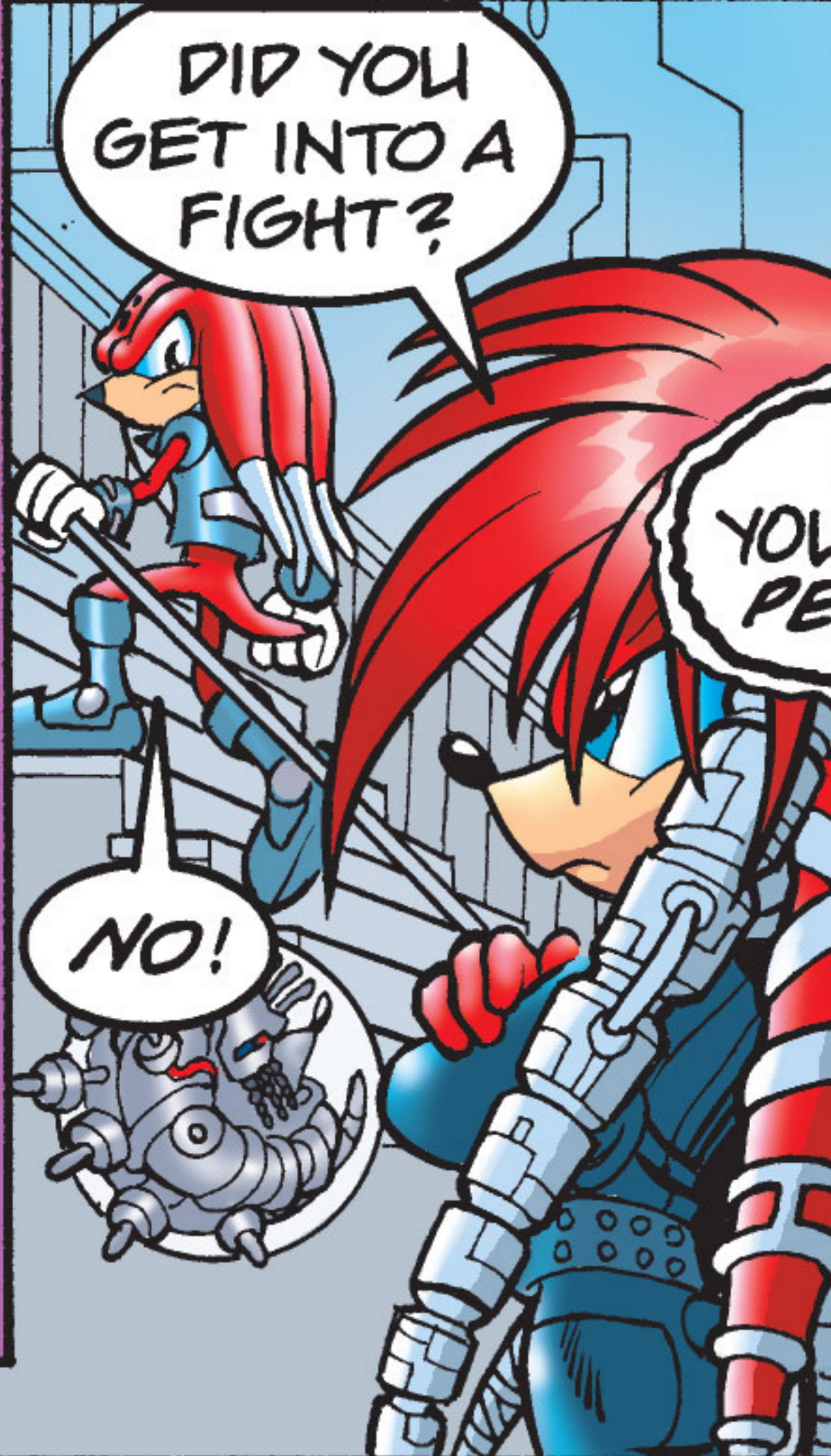
ANCESTOR!

RUTAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HEAD?



PLEASE, MOTHER, IT'S NOTHING!

LEAVE IT ALONE!



DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT?

NO!

I DON'T RECALL KRAGOK OR I BEHAVING SO!

NEITHER OF YOU WERE TEMPERAMENTAL--

"...BUT YOU WERE TREACHEROUS!"

HELLO?
ANYONE
HOME?

UP HERE!

WHAT'S GOING
ON? WHERE'S
LARA-SU?

SHE'S IN
THERE!

SO? I CAN
APPRECIATE THE NEED
FOR PRIVACY!

SHE
DOESN'T
WANT
TO COME
OUT!

FOR SOME REASON,
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO
GO THROUGH WITH THE
UNVEILING!

COME OUT OF THERE
AT ONCE, LARA-SU!

GO
AWAY!

AFRAID
I CAN'T DO
THAT!

I
WON'T
GO!

YOU'LL COME OUT OF THERE NOW!!!

NO!

CALM DOWN, HON. TRY TO REASON WITH HER!

REASON?

WITH A 16-YEAR-OLD TEENAGER?

WHERE'S THE BOOK ON THAT ONE?

WELL, SCREAMING SURE ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING!

LARA-SU, ALL ECHIDNA GIRLS ARE UNVEILED WHEN THEY TURN 16.

IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO!

I WANNA' BE A GUARDIAN!

OUT OF THE QUESTION!

BUT, WHY?

YOU WERE MUCH YOUNGER THAN I AM WHEN YOU BECAME ONE!

LET'S NOT GO THERE!

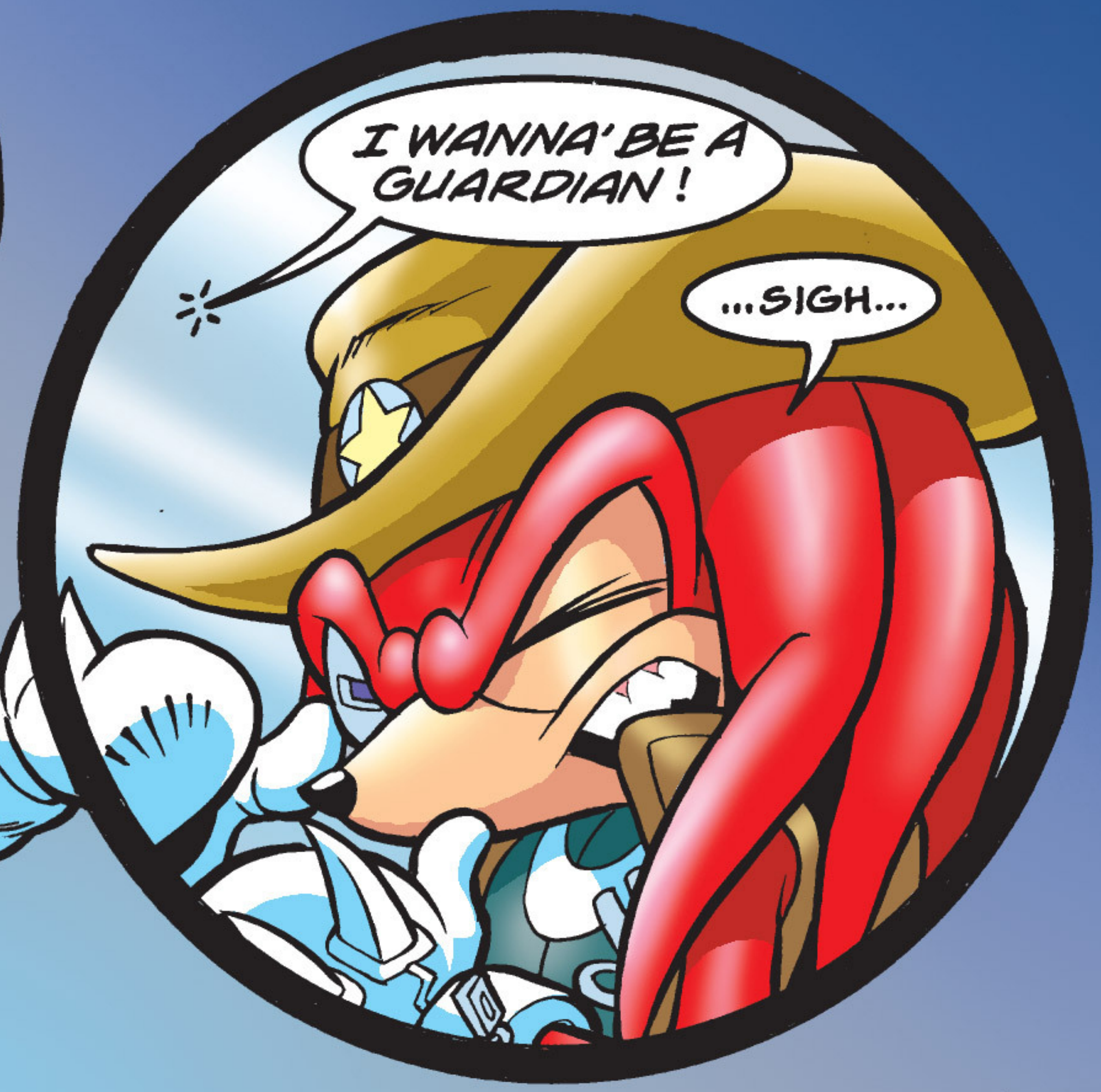
THEN, WHY?

I HAVE MY REASONS!

SUCH AS?

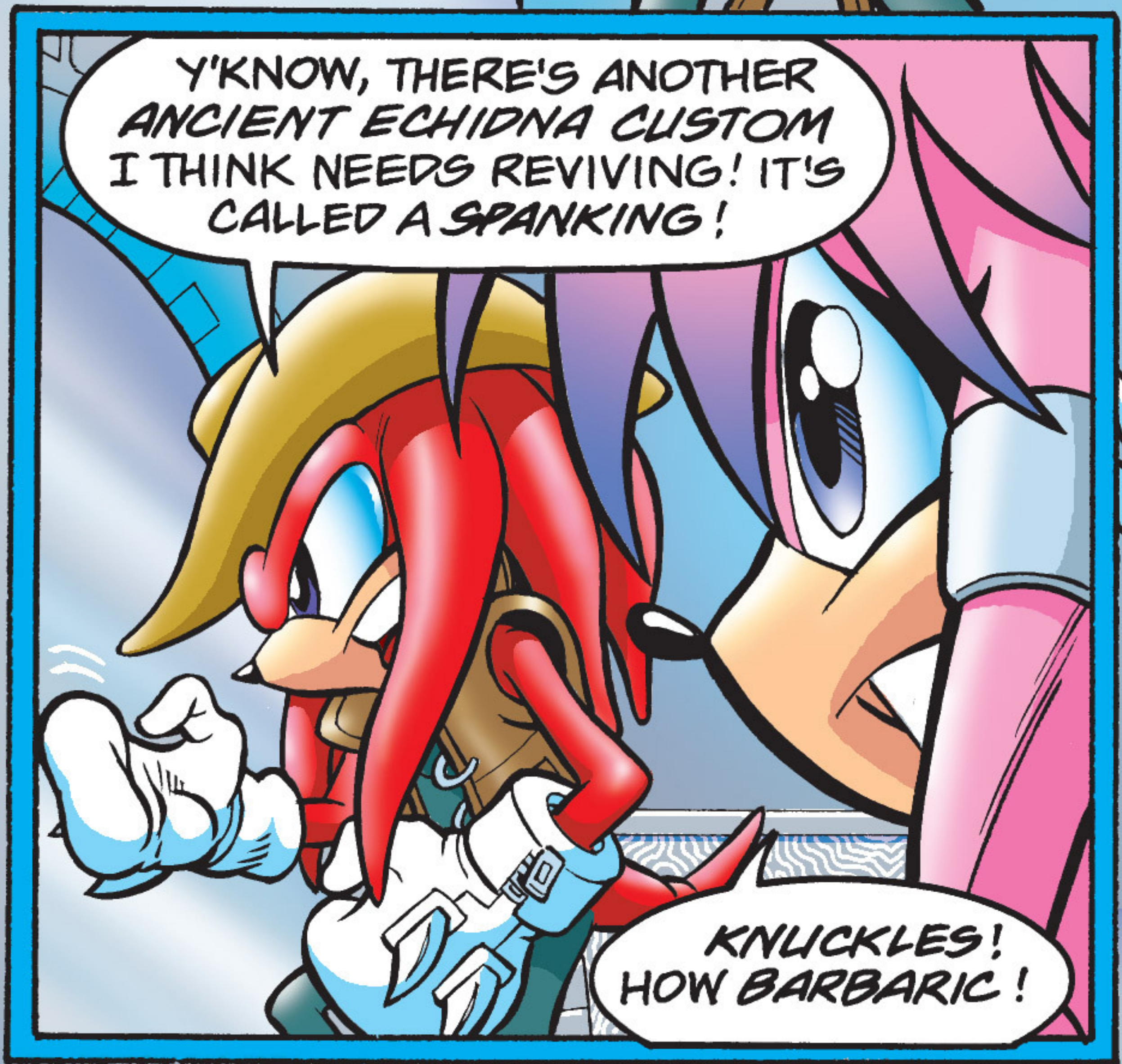
FOR ONE THING, WHAT DO YOU NEED A GUARDIAN FOR WHEN OTHERS ARE ESSENTIALLY CARRYING OUT THE SAME FUNCTIONS?

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW!



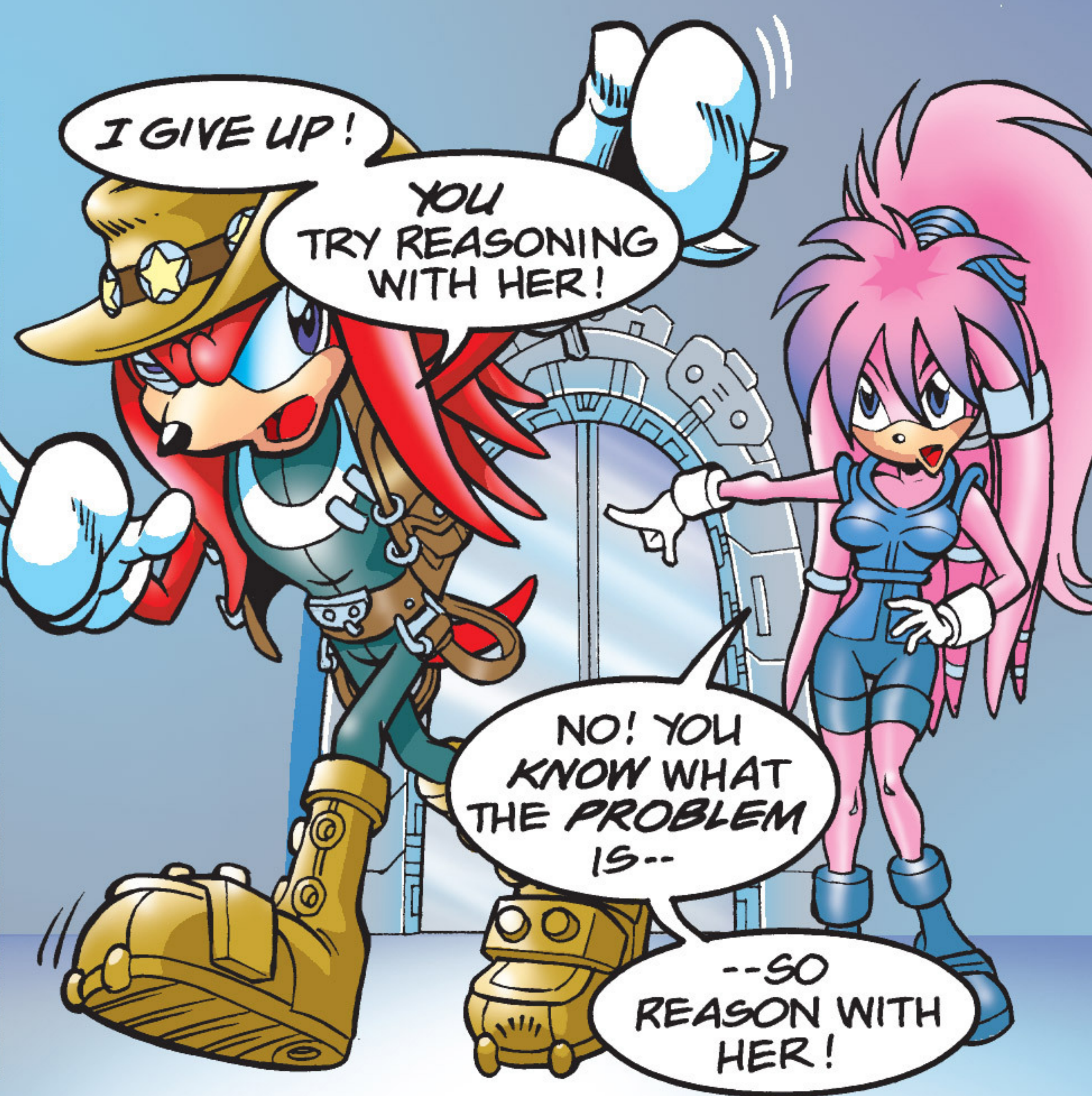
I WANNA' BE A GUARDIAN!

...SIGH...



Y'KNOW, THERE'S ANOTHER ANCIENT ECHIDNA CUSTOM I THINK NEEDS REVIVING! IT'S CALLED A SPANKING!

KNUCKLES! HOW BARBARIC!



I GIVE UP!

YOU TRY REASONING WITH HER!

NO! YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS--

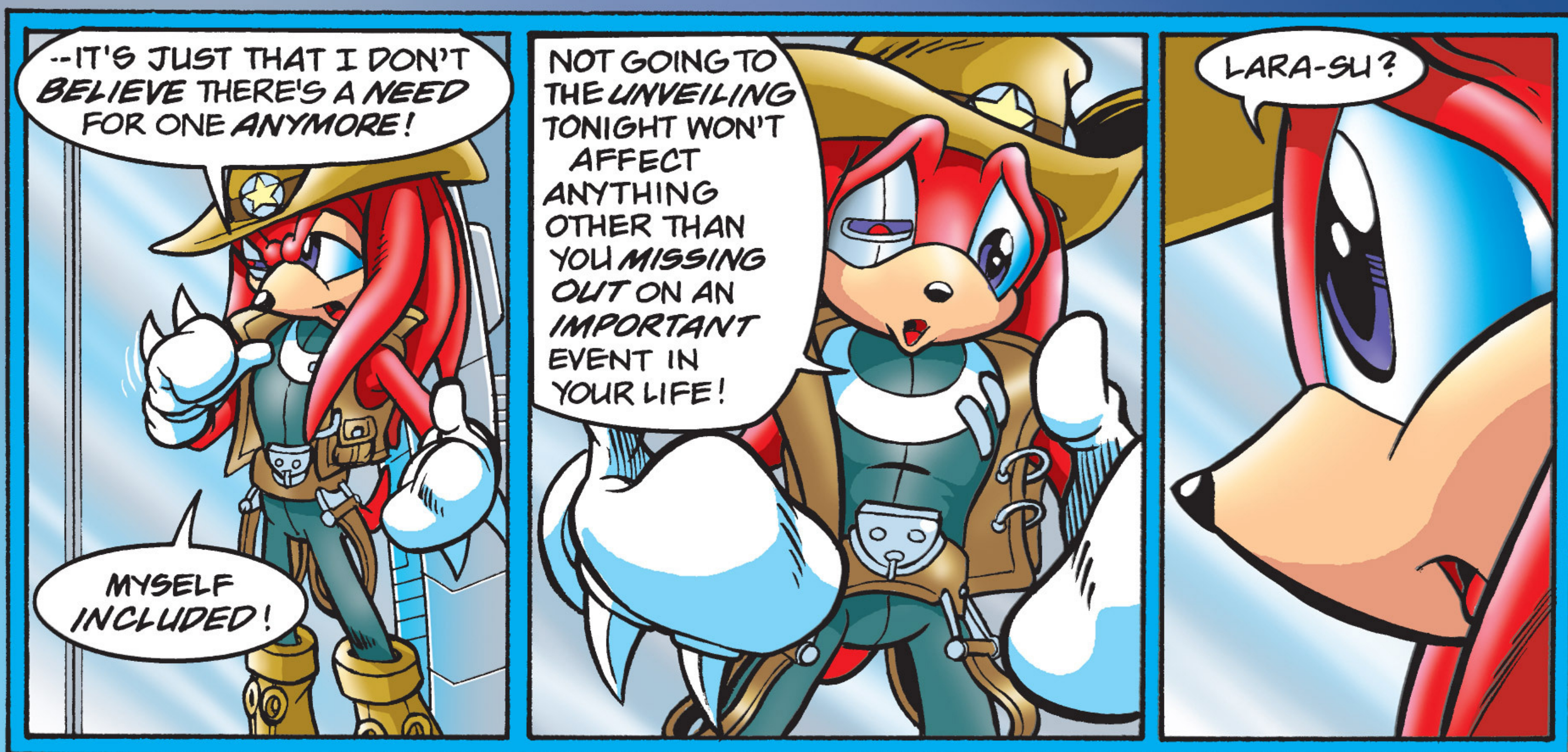
--SO REASON WITH HER!



LARA-SU, I KNOW YOU WANT TO BE A GUARDIAN--

--AND I THINK YOU'D MAKE A GREAT GUARDIAN--





WRITER/INKER: KEN PENDERS PENCILER: STEVEN BUTLER COLORIST: JENSEN
LETTERER: VICKIE WILLIAMS EDITOR: JUSTIN GABRIE

PROLOGUE

AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING. BE HERE NEXT ISSUE AS WE CONTINUE OUR BACK TO THE FUTURE STORYLINE WHERE WE HAVE AN INVITATION TO LARA-SU'S UNVEILING, SEE ROTOR'S MEETING WITH COBAR AND MEET AN UNEXPECTED CHARACTER OR TWO!